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**Progress Report on the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013 – 2016
(as of October 2015)**

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DRAFT

Chapter 1: Implementation of the RSSD (2013-2016) by UNEP

Analysis of the implementation of the RSSD (2013-2016) by UNEP

UNEP made a significant contribution to achieve the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2013-2016) with regards to the Strategy 1 (*Effectively apply an ecosystem approach in the management of the marine and coastal environment*) and the Strategy 2 (*Strengthen capacities at the regional level and national level on marine and coastal governance*). These two strategies are closely related to the activities of the UNEP Programme of Work (PoW) and thus the contributions towards the strategic goals were smoothly made.

On Strategy 4 (Support the provision of tools to decouple economic growth from environmental pressures in the marine and coastal environment by promoting resource efficiency and productivity) various activities are ongoing at UNEP developing tools and methods in order to promote Green Economy. However, there are opportunities for UNEP to create further collaboration with the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) particularly to implement the concept in the oceans. In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sustainable production and consumption patterns have been emphasized and thus the realization of Green Economy will continue to be important.

UNEP has also contributed to the achievement of the Strategy 5 (*Strengthen coordination and build necessary capacities at the regional and national levels to improve global knowledge and trends on the status of the marine environment, contribution to the World Ocean Assessment*), providing technical as well as financial supports to the workshops and to the Expert Group. The summary of the regular process has been produced¹. As a spinoff of the process, Nairobi Convention has produced the first report on the State of the marine environment in the region. The regular process has, therefore, developed regional capacities to monitor the status of the oceans.

On the other hand, UNEP has made limited progresses on the implementation of the Strategy 3 (*Strengthen capacities at the regional level and national level on marine and coastal environment*) and 6 (*Strengthen collaboration mechanisms with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UN Agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFIs)*). Particularly, it has been difficult to secure financial resources for the RSCAPs (3.4). Further efforts are needed to foster partnerships with MEAs and other international organizations to increase visibility of the Regional Seas Programme and to attract future funding. However, the secretariats also need to develop their own strategies to achieve financial as well as institutional sustainability.

Due to the lack of clear targets and indicators for the strategies, it is difficult to assess the overall level of achievements UNEP has made toward the RSSD (2013-2016). Furthermore, it is not clear to the extent which UNEP was able to use these strategies to implement its work as the PoW is the principal guiding document for the implementation of its activities. For the future RSSDs, therefore, it is recommended to set explicit targets to encourage commitments towards the implementation both by UNEP and RSCAPs.

¹ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/112

Implementation of the each action item by UNEP

1. Effectively apply an ecosystem approach in the management of the marine and coastal environment

1.1 Identify areas/indicators related to Sustainable Development Goal on oceans.

Significant efforts have been made to link indicators used by the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Regional Seas Indicators Working group. It is expected that the RSCAPs will be able to provide technical assistance to the member countries to monitor the indicators related to the oceans particularly on the SDG Goal 14.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Technical Workshop on Selecting Indicators for the State of Regional Seas (Geneva, 30 June – 2 July 2014)	The workshop confirmed important principles for choosing indicators and recommended to establish a regional seas indicator working group to develop an indicator toolbox ² .	30 June – 02 July 2014
Publication “Measuring Success – Indicators for Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans”	The publication was submitted to UNEP SDG Task Force and Inter-Agency SDG indicators working group. It was also presented to ICP on Sustainable Development and Oceans in May 2015.	Dec 2014
Launching of the Regional Seas Indicator Working Group, 23 October 2015, Istanbul	Based on the recommendations from the 2014 technical workshop, UNEP would like to launch regional seas indicator working group, and the results of the working group should be provided to the continuing discussion on the SDG indicators ³ .	October 2015
Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 14 (Oceans) follow-up and preparatory input: Proposed indicator included target 14c as ‘additional indicator’ for consideration by UNGA: “Number of countries implementing either legally or programmatically the provisions set out in Regional Seas protocols and ratification and implementation of the ILO Maritime and Fisheries Conventions”.	If adopted, RSCAPs may utilize its relevant systems for monitoring and reporting on management and governance of the marine and coastal environment, incl.(a) compliance committees reviewing implementation of regional agreements within their mandates, (b) mandatory reporting on the state of the marine and coastal environment of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans at 3-5	August 2015 ⁴

² http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/globalmeetings/Indicator_RS_meeting/indicator_workshop.asp

³ <http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/40YearsofAction/IndicatorRRSMeeting-2015/tabid/1060470/Default.aspx>

⁴ <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/index.html>

	year cycles.	
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1.2 Build capacities on application of EBM principles at the Regional/National level

UNEP has been emphasizing the implementation of EBM. A number of projects for EBM have been carried out at regional and national levels. For example, capacity building activities have been conducted with CPPS and CEP. UNEP and SPREP are also working on an on-going project on cost-benefit analysis for ecosystem-based adaptation. On the other hand, several policy guideline and guiding materials have been produced. The RSCAPs are encouraged to use the publications to conduct capacitation activities at their regions.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Regional capacity building workshop on EBM conducted in specific regions, including preparation of site-level EBM pilot projects	Regional EBM Capacity Building workshops held in collaboration between UNEP/DEPI-CPPS (14-18 Oct 2013 in Lima, Peru) to provide decision makers and planners across relevant sectors from the governments of the Lima Convention Region (Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile) with tools and skills to develop and implement ecosystem-based approaches for coastal management. EBM pilot project concepts were prepared for each country, partly followed under the IOC/UNESCO SPINCAM project on indicators for coastal zone management	Oct 2013
Guidance on governing Marine Protected Areas – building resilience through diversity	A governance framework with a set of guiding principles has been developed to assist analyzing and combining different governance aspects in the planning and implementation of MPAs. The framework is informed by 20 MPA case studies from the field. The framework and principles are discussed in the peer-reviewed paper ⁵ . Follow-up work is ongoing to develop a practical guidance resource on MPA governance to be launched spring 2016 ('Guidance on MPA governance – resilience through diversity')	Sept 2013

⁵ E.M. De Santo, O. Vestergaard , P.J.S. Jones , W. Qiu: An empirical framework for deconstructing the realities of governing marine protected areas, Marine Policy 41, 2013.

<p>The report "Pacific Integrated Island Management: Principles, Case Studies and Lessons Learned published.</p>	<p>The report Pacific Integrated Island Management (IIM): Principles, Case Studies and Lessons Learned was prepared through collaboration between SPREP, UNEP Wildlife Conservation Society, Alluvium Consulting, Edith Cowan University, Sustainable Island Innovations and Hodge Environmental, and presented during the 9th Pacific Island Nature Conservation Conference in early December 2013 as well as at the 3rd SIDS conference in September 2014. IIM is a planning process that recognizes the importance of integrated management that operates at the scale at which biological, social and physical processes occur on small islands. IIM calls for sustainable and adaptive management of natural resources through coordinated networks of institutions and communities that bridge habitats (e.g. land-sea) and stakeholders (e.g. communities, business, industry, government) with the common goals of maintaining ecosystem services and securing human health and well-being. Based on analysis of 15 case studies sourced from Pacific islands and covering a range of island environments, habitats and vulnerabilities, as well as varying development and governance contexts, the report presents ten best practice principles for IIM and synthesizes lessons learned. The report is accompanied by a brief policy outreach document⁶ and the work was also published in a peer reviewed journal⁷.</p>	<p>Dec 2013</p>
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⁶ <http://www.sprep.org/publications/pacific-integrated-island-management-principles-case-studies-and-lessons-learned>

⁷ Jupiter SD, Jenkins AP, Lee Long WJ, Maxwell SL, Carruthers TJB, Hodge KB, Govan H, Tamelander J and Watson JEM 2014: Principles for integrated island management in the tropical Pacific. *Pacific Conservation Biology* 20(2) 193 – 205.

<p>Report on the mangrove ecosystem services was prepared and launched.</p>	<p>The publication “The Importance of Mangroves to People: A Call to Action” was published and launched in October 2014. The publication presented a set of recommendations for global action, including establishment of a global mangrove commission and of a global mangrove fund. Based on the recommendations, UNEP, IUCN, Ramsar Convention and CBD are developing a global mangrove initiative (provisional title), and once it is fully developed, regional seas conventions and action plans are invited to participate in and contribute to this initiative.</p>	<p>October 2014</p>
<p>UNEP-LifeWeb: “Broad-scale Marine Spatial Planning for transboundary marine mammal management in Caribbean and Southeast and Northeast Pacific”</p>	<p>Key results: (a) Regional capacity and networking among govt. planners in 26 participating countries enhanced on broad-scale marine spatial planning ; (b) Regional expert consultations, data collation and review undertaken to map marine mammal distribution, essential habitats, and human impacts; (c) Management plan developed for Silverbank Humpback Sanctuary, Dominican Republic; (d) Transboundary scenarios developed on marine mammal protected areas in East Caribbean; (e) Policy advice and outreach on transboundary management and governance developed and disseminated.</p>	<p>July 2010 – Dec 2014</p>
<p>UNEP-LifeWeb: Saving Monk Seal Population from Extinction, pilot work at the Cap Blanc Peninsula and surrounding areas, Mauritania</p>	<p>Key results: (a) Special Areas of Conservation for the monk seal (SACMS) other suitable monk seal habitats accurately surveyed; (b) SACMS confirmed as important potential places for monk seal feeding and dispersion; (c) Monitoring and enforcement strengthened; (d) Increased awareness of local public and artisan fishermen on sustainable resource use and conservation strategies⁸.</p>	<p>Jan 2011- Dec 2014</p>

⁸ <http://www.unep.org/lifeweb/mauritania.asp>

<p>UNEP-LifeWeb: Strengthening the management and surveillance of Marine Protected Areas in Guinea Bissau</p>	<p>Key results: (a) Participative maritime surveillance system operational in the three marine protected areas, with a national strategy for maritime surveillance in the protected areas validated by stakeholders, published and distributed; (b) Management capacity of the Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP) improved through the creation of the Central Surveillance Unit and acquisition of surveillance equipment; (c) Participation of local populations in management of MPA is a reality: local fishermen are actively contributing to its management and surveillance⁹.</p>	<p>Jan 2011- Dec 2014</p>
<p>UNEP-LifeWeb: Support to regional marine protected areas network of marine turtles in Western Africa (Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Sierra Leone)</p>	<p>Key results: (a) Threats to breeding marine turtles due to coastal dynamics and climate change described and analysed; (b) Representativeness, connectivity and management efficiency of the regional network of marine protected areas in West Africa strengthened; (c) Management of the marine protected areas of Palmarin and Joal in Sine Saloum, Senegal strengthened¹⁰.</p>	<p>Jan 2011- Dec 2014</p>
<p>“Blue Solutions” initiative of GIZ, UNEP, GRID-Arendal and IUCN - developing and bringing together innovative marine and coastal management approaches and policy advice</p>	<p>Global capacity building initiative focusing on holistic solutions for a sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. Five thematic areas: (I) Ecosystem-based marine spatial planning and management; (II) MPA governance,; (III) Integrating ecosystem services into development planning; (IV) Ccosystem-based adaptation; and (V) Sustainable financing. By collating best practices, improving methods, enhancing capacity and fostering knowledge exchange, action is supported at local, sub-national, national, regional and global levels. Through different formats and cooperation with various partner institutions, the Blue Solutions</p>	<p>2013-2017</p>

⁹ <http://www.unep.org/lifeweb/west-africa.asp>

¹⁰ <http://www.unep.org/lifeweb/sea-turtles.asp>

	Initiative seeks to (a) enhance capacities for scaling up useful approaches and tools, (b) provide learning opportunities and trainings on Blue Solutions themes, and (c) support policy processes to facilitate pilot application and testing ¹¹ .	
Blue Solutions Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Human Well-being co-organised by UNEP, GIZ, IUCN (Cebu, Philippines).	Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Solutions for Oceans, Coasts and Human Well-Being convened by Blue Solutions. Attended by 120 managers and practitioners from 20 countries to share, discuss and learn from local-to-regional experiences related to MPA governance, Locally Managed marine Areas, disaster risk reduction, and ecosystem services. Held in May 2015, Cebu, Philippines ¹² .	May 2014
UNEP guidance: “How can ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change be integrated into national adaptation planning?”	Concise briefing document to advice how ecosystem-based adaptation principles can be integrated into national adaptation planning. It considers four main elements: (a) Understanding adaptation context; (b) Assessing climate change impacts and vulnerabilities; (c) Identifying, appraising and selecting adaptation options; (d) develop implementation strategies ¹³ .	Oct 2014
Regional MPA networks – challenges and opportunities	Review of MPA network development and implementation from different global regions, providing practical examples on challenges and opportunities for regional-scale MPA development. Findings published in: ‘Building the regional perspective: platforms for successes ¹⁴ .	Nov 2014
Coastal Ecosystem-based Adaptation in SIDS	UNEP-EU ENRTP project on coastal EBA in SIDS. Main ongoing activities: Development of decision-tools and	2013-2016

¹¹ www.BlueSolutions.info

¹² <http://bluesolutions.info/solutioning-exchange-on-blue-solutions-asia-and-pacific/>

¹³ Munroe, R., Mant, R., Hicks, H., Kapos, V., Woroniecki, S., Soi, N., Crane, S., Vestergaard, O., and Kay, R. (2014): How can ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change be integrated into national adaptation planning? UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya.

¹⁴ David E. Johnson, Carole Martinez, Ole Vestergaard, Dominique Duval-Diop, Marie Romani, Martha C. McConnell, Craig Beatty, Ronny Jumeau, Kate Brown,. Aquatic Conservation, 24, 2014

	<p>guidance of coastal EBA; two pilot demonstration projects (Grenada, Seychelles); and regional EBA training in Caribbean and Western Indian Ocean and global policy advice through the Global Adaptation Network.</p> <p>Implemented by DEPI Climate Change and Marine & Coastal Ecosystems Units in collaboration with UNEP Regional Offices and Regional Seas (CEP, Nairobi Conventions)</p>	
<p>Guidance on Integrated Approach to Managing Ecosystems</p>	<p>UNEP report introducing and discussing guiding principles on integrated management with examples from terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine systems. The report adopts UNEP's marine and coastal EBM planning framework as an underlying capacity building framework¹⁵.</p>	<p>Jan 2015</p>
<p>Blue Solutions Latin America and Caribbean Regional Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Human Well-being co-organised by UNEP, GIZ, IUCN (Cancun, Mexico).</p>	<p>Latin America and Caribbean Regional Forum on Solutions for Oceans, Coasts and Human Well-Being convened by Blue Solutions. Attended by 100 managers and practitioners from 17 countries to share, discuss and learn from local-to-regional experiences related to marine spatial planning, ecosystem services, ecosystem-based adaptation and sustainable financing. April 2015, Cancún, Mexico¹⁶.</p>	<p>April 2015</p>
<p>Marine and coastal EBM guide translated into French and Spanish</p>	<p>UNEP's guidance and planning framework on marine and coastal ecosystem-based management, "Taking Steps Towards Marine and Coastal Ecosystem-based Management – An Introduction Guide", is translated into French and Spanish</p>	<p>Oct 2015</p>
<p>Ongoing work with SPREP on using cost-benefit analysis for Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in a Pacific island context.</p>	<p>UNEP, in collaboration with the Lami Town council (Fiji), SPREP UN-Habitat and WWF has developed a planning framework for the use of ecosystem-based adaptation approaches in local</p>	<p>Q4 2015</p>

¹⁵ Gibson, J., Wilson, L., Kelly, J. Vestergaard, O., Bowles-Newark, N., Strubel, M., Crowther, A., Fancourt, M. & Brown, C. (2014): Towards an integrated approach to managing ecosystems. UNEP, 107 pages.

¹⁶ <http://bluesolutions.info/sharing-blue-solutions-from-latin-america-and-the-wider-caribbean-region/>

	<p>urban planning and climate change adaptation strategies. This encompasses the use of cost-benefit analysis in identifying and combining ecosystem-based adaptation options with other, more conventional adaptation options. In the first phase (2012-13), this focused on adaptation options within the Lami town area. The second phase of the project (2014-2015) encompassed further identification and detailed analysis of costs and benefits associated with adaptation options as well as a increased focus on monitoring and evaluation. The report "Benefit cost analysis of ecosystem-based management and climate change adaptation options in Lami Town, Fiji" is being finalized for publication in Q4 2015. Building on previous work it makes significant enhancements in terms of methodological approach, and provides a system to track effectiveness of ecosystem-based adaptation in the longer term. Importantly, given the uncertainty regarding the long term efficacy of many EBA options, this new report uses a threshold analysis approach which helps identify when a given adaptation option becomes economically viable. This pilot initiative can support mainstreaming of EbA actions into adaptation and development planning, by providing a locally appropriate approach suitable for replication in a Pacific SIDS context¹⁷.</p>	
<p>Regional EBM training and pilot project development in Caribbean by CAR/RCU and DEPI</p>	<p>Preparation ongoing for implementation of regional training introducing EBM principles and practical approaches to government planes and decision-makers across coastal and marine sectors. A number of national/local EBM pilot projects will be discussed and prepared for further</p>	<p>2016</p>

¹⁷ <http://www.ebaflagship.org/ecosystems/urban/lami-town-project>

	implementation.	
Support to the South Asian Seas Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy	<p>Responding to the 5th Inter-Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme, a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy is being prepared by SACEP and UNEP. The MCBS will address threats to the region's marine biodiversity, by supporting the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal habitats through strengthening implementation of and coherence of actions under National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) for 2011-2020. A First Order Draft of the Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy has been prepared based on thematic desk review studies conducted during 2013 and a regional technical workshop held in Colombo in July 2014. This provides initial identification of Regional Targets and Actions for the SAS region and encompasses extensive information on the rationale for the Regional Strategy, current status and trends, background information on each of the six thematic areas of the Strategy as well as sections on communication, monitoring and evaluation, financing and partnerships. The First Order Draft has been shared with national focal points for review and comments, and will be further elaborated at a second regional workshop tentatively planned for Q4 2015. The final strategy will be presented to the SAS Inter-ministerial Meeting for Endorsement.</p>	2016

1.3 Provide guidance on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) implementation at local, national, transboundary level.

Most of the activities related to the MSP have been at global level as shown below. However, works at national level have started as is the case in Vietnam. It is expected that the RSCAPs will take advantage

of the available tools and learning materials to facilitate MSP at the regional level. There are opportunities of further collaboration between UNEP and the RSCAPs for the implementation of MSP at regional level.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
<p>Ecosystem-based Spatial Planning and Management for Sustainable Oceans and Coasts' UNEP project to implement UNEP PoW 2014-17 developed and initiated</p>	<p>EBM global support project to provide decision-support tools and guidance, regional capacity building, and national pilot projects to assist countries and regions implement ecosystem-based management principles through coastal and marine spatial planning and management. Thematic areas include: Guidance on practical implementation of MSP frameworks for integrated marine and coastal management; MPA governance; MSP open-source training course; MSP for coastal sustainability and resilience; ecosystem-services in MSP; integrated ecosystem assessments for area-based planning and management. The project supports for example the Regional Seas Coral Reef Partnership through tools and capacity building on coastal EBM.</p>	<p>2015- 2017</p>
<p>"Marine Spatial Planning in Practice" Initiative. Review of practical experiences and development of tools and guidance enabling effective implementation</p>	<p>Preparation by UNEP and GEF/STAP, CBD, GIZ and TNC on barriers and enabling conditions for marine spatial planning and plan implementation in different ecological, social and economic context and settings. A global survey of 90 MSP processes have been collated and analysed. Initial findings are presented in the report: "<i>Marine Spatial Planning in Practice— Transitioning from Planning to Implementation</i>" (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/INF/23)</p> <p>Further work in ongoing in support of UNEP PoW 2014-17 outputs on marine and coastal ecosystem-based management, and CBD COP12 decisions are ongoing to develop draft guidance on marine spatial planning in</p>	<p>June 2014 with follow-up work ongoing</p>

	practice.	
Training course on Marine Spatial Planning and Management in Practice	<p>UNEP and GIZ are developing a new open source training course on coastal marine and spatial planning and management in practice targeted at government planners and practitioners. Building on existing guidance resources and learning from real-life experiences it provides a modular training package addressing barriers and enabling conditions for marine spatial planning, plan implementation and monitoring of MSP outcomes and impact.</p> <p>The MSP training course complements Blue Solutions training courses on: 1) Integrating ecosystem services in development planning, and 2) coastal ecosystem-based adaptation. More at www.bluesolutions.info</p>	Ongoing
MSP online experience sharing platform	<p>UNEP has initiated development of an online system to collate and share practical experiences on coastal and marine spatial planning globally to assist countries/regions optimize enabling conditions for application and implementation of coastal and marine spatial planning for integrated management. An knowledge-sharing interface is being designed under UNEP-Live, also seeking to guide future reporting of outcomes of marine management initiatives relevant to SDG target 14.2¹⁸.</p>	Ongoing
Guidance of spatial dimensions of fisheries and biodiversity governance for integrated marine planning and management	<p>Guiding principles on integrated fisheries and conservation are discussed in the paper: "Spatial dimensions of fisheries and biodiversity governance"¹⁹. It identifies spatial governance in fisheries and biodiversity conservation and spatio-temporal issues in both governance fields and the potential offered by spatially-</p>	Sept 2014

¹⁸ 'Sustainable use and protect coastal and marine ecosystems to achieve healthy and productive oceans'.

¹⁹ Kenchington, Vestergaard and Garcia, 2014, WILEY

	<p>structured multi-use integrated management frameworks. The analysis concludes that the spatial dimensions of both governance streams and the similarity of issues arising from an increasing range of human uses and impacts would require an effective integrated approach to spatial and temporal management.</p> <p>The results inform UNEP's ongoing work to develop practical tools for marine spatial planning and management.</p>	
<p>Publication on Marine spatial planning and coral reef resilience</p>	<p>The report "Coral Reef Resilience through Spatial Planning: A Conceptual Framework" is being finalized for publication in Q4 2015, through collaboration between UNEP, IUCN, the National Coral Reef Institute, The Nature Conservancy and the Living Oceans Foundation. The report has been prepared as part of UNEP's work on area-based EBM tools to help integrate resilience considerations into ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning. It also recognizes that systematic and cost-effective approaches for resilience-based coral reef planning and management applicable to a variety of geographic and institutional settings are lacking. It provides the foundation for such approaches, by reviewing and synthesizing recent progress in resilience science that has potential direct application in spatial planning, and suggesting ways indicators of resilience can be used in spatial planning across all of its incarnations. The report provides a foundation for further development of spatial planning and coral reef resilience tools and approaches through UNEP's Marine and coastal EBM Tools & Capacity Support Programme and the Global Coral Reef Partnership (see below), including by identifying</p>	<p>2015</p>

	requirements and opportunities associated with Marine Spatial Planning processes and frameworks.	
Coastal spatial planning pilot project, Mekong Delta, Vietnam	New capacity building initiative on ecosystem-based spatial planning for sustainable use and resilience building in four coastal provinces of the lower Mekong Delta, Vietnam. UNEP's EBM planning framework ("Taking steps..") serves as guiding framework for preparation of spatial planning scenarios and land-use strategies for provincial Action Plans to implement Vietnam's new national ICZM strategy. Main partners include Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, provincial governments, UNEP, GIZ Vietnam, Mangroves for the Future, and COBSEA Secretariat (engaged to assist regional knowledge sharing and project logistics).	Ongoing

2. Contribute to the implementation of the Manila Declaration of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA), in particular the partnerships on wastewater management, nutrients and marine litter.

2.1 Coordinate launches for regional chapters of the Global Partnerships on Nutrients, Marine Litter and Wastewater, as relevant to each region

As shown below UNEP has strongly facilitated activities on marine litter at regional level. Several Regional Seas have formulated regional Action Plans for Marine Litter²⁰ receiving technical supports from the GPA. For nutrients management, Asia and Caribbean regional chapters were established. It is expected that UNEP and the RSCAPs continue working together to facilitate establishment of regional chapters of the GPA.

Related action/project by UNEP	Results	Delivery date
Marine litter chapters of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter ongoing in some	Launched for NOWPAP Launch planned for Wider Caribbean	September 2014

²⁰ reference

regions.	Region Support to the implementation of the Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter	November 2015
SPREP demonstration project in Samoa - "Pacific Islands Waste Management and Marine Debris Minimisation Best Practice - Samoa Demonstration Project", which aims at reducing flux of marine litter into harbor and raising awareness on the issue of marine debris, while demonstrating effective waste management means	The project included four main components: community and media awareness; improved waste management in the ports of entry into Samoa in particular the Samoa Port and Samoa Airport; waste disposal facilities within the UNSIDS venue and the accommodation providers; and working with the communities to improve waste practices in Apia areas. This also included e.g. provision of litter booms in major contributory rivers and upscaling of waste through craft workshops. Documentary ²¹ is available. Litter booms also installed in Solomon Island (spin off project)	October 2014
CPPS, development of municipal action plans between municipalities and local stakeholders to reduce the impact of marine litter in coastal communities in Southeast Pacific countries.	Five municipal action plans developed and adopted.	January 2015
Enhanced knowledge on best practices in dealing with marine litter in fisheries, aquaculture and shipping, and prevention of marine litter inputs from land-based sources in NOWPAP countries, including NGOs. Enabled adoption by Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention on a Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean Sea.	Best Practices compiled and shared in 4 languages. Honolulu Strategy translated to Chinese.	2014
Enabled adoption by Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention on a Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean Sea.	Commitment from over 20 countries around the Mediterranean to address marine litter through specific actions. Action plan in force 2014.	2013 (developed) 2014 (in force)
Informed regional and national action and the future work of the Cartagena Convention/Caribbean Environment Programme by revision of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management for the Wider Caribbean Region	Updated RAPMaLi	2014/5
Asia and Caribbean regional chapters established for Global Partnership on Nutrients Management (GPNM).		

²¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FibX2E6xydI&feature=youtu.be>

2.2 Work with Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) to develop nutrient management plans.

During this reporting period, UNEP has worked with PERSCA, SACEP and ROPME for nutrient management as described below. It is expected that the experiences and lessons learnt will be shared with other regions to facilitate improvement of nutrient management in other regions.

Related action/project by UNEP	Results	Delivery date
Project developed in PERSGA region on wastewater management and pollution loads assessment in coastal cities.	Based on the existing cooperation under the Regional Seas Programme, UNEP agreed to cooperate with PERSGA with respect to the project entitled “Managing Wastewater through Global Partnership”. Activities carried out in the first six months include the development of the Regional Guidelines on Wastewater Management in Coastal Cities of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden , which were presented during the Arab Water Week – Dead Sea, Jordan, 11-15 January 2015. These regional guidelines were translated into Arabic and French. A regional Wastewater Management Taskforce Meeting and Workshop was held in Aqaba, Jordan, 4-6 May, 2015 and also a National workshop on Wastewater mgmt. and the Risk of Seasonal Surface Runoff and Groundwater Contaminating on the Coastal Development in the Red Sea was held in May 2015, Hurghada, Egypt.	On-going, expected to end Dec 2016
SACEP (with technical inputs from GPNM and financial support from BOBLME) is carrying out a study on Nutrient over-enrichment and coastal eutrophication in South Asia to develop a regional action plan and establishment of a regional policy forum to monitor progress of action and define corrective actions to be pursued by member countries.		
Development of baseline and indicators on the impact of wastewater on coral reef for the	An agreed outline has already been developed and a workshop is planned in	On-going, expected to

PERSGA region, taking stock of the findings of the science to policy brief on wastewater pollution on coral reefs, development by the Coral Reef Unit.	Hurghada, Egypt to propose monitoring indicators and capacity building strategy for communities. Local communities and national bodies will be built to use these indicators and monitor their coral reef.	end Dec 2016
Support to ROPME to revisit their existing Municipal Wastewater Management guidelines, update them and develop a wastewater management strategy.	An Assessment of LBS of Municipal wastewater – Experience from PERSGA Was presented at the ROPME meeting in Kuwait, 25-27 May 2015. ROPME is expecting more technical support from GPA, to deal with their pollution issues.	2015

2.3 Support LBS/A Protocol ratification and implementation through resource mobilization, awareness-raising, capacity-building, sharing of lessons learned and on-the-ground activities (i.e. demonstrations projects)

In collaboration with UNEP and GEF, three conventions (Nairobi Convention, Cartagena Convention and Abidjan Conventions) have been working on the ratification or implementation of the LBS protocols. Further capacity building on the implementation of the LBS protocols at national level could be conducted in other regions.

Related action/project by UNEP	Results	Delivery date
Initiation of the GEF WIO-SAP project to prompt the ratification of the LMSA protocol of the Nairobi Convention	The project concept was approved by the GEF Council and the project document and CEO endorsement were submitted officially to GEF in June 2015. UNEP is responding to the comments provided by GEF Secretariat.	June 2015
CRew	The GEF funded project with the support of CAR/RCU is engaging with CAR countries to support (1) new ratification but also (2) compliance and implementation of the LBS protocol for those who have already ratified. For now work is ongoing with Panama, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala coordinated by RAC/CIMAB in Cuba.	Ongoing
Med Partnership	<i>Midterm evaluation of SAP Med and NAPs implementation</i> The evaluation of the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP-MED, adopted in 1997) as a long term policy framework to combat pollution from	2014

	<p>land-based sources in the Mediterranean as well as of the National Action Plans (NAPs) prepared in 2004/2005 was completed by early 2014.</p> <p>The evaluation report on SAP/NAP implementation acknowledged the big effort made to set a complete and comprehensive policy and regulatory framework by almost all countries. It identified some gaps and stressed that pressures from land based sources and activities remained high and that further concerted efforts were needed to reduce marine pollution in the Mediterranean. Meanwhile, pollution related reporting capacities of the countries had increased over time. Lack of data was identified as an important constraint to the assessment.</p> <p>With regards to the NAP investment portfolio, the analysis conducted by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) showed that funding was secured for 83% of waste water and for 40% of solid waste projects during the first 7 years of implementing the NAPs. However, delays in the NAP projects becoming operational were recorded even in cases when the investment funding was secured due to lack of operation and maintenance funding or for other reasons (e.g. lack of collection systems or political opposition). Implementation of all the assessed projects would substantially contribute to elimination of the identified hot spots by the year 2025. Key recommendations include the need to ensure project sustainability through, amongst others, cost recovery and better use economic instruments, as well as the needs to move to a more sustainable consumption and production patterns, improve monitoring and enforcement systems, and others.</p> <p>The evaluation report acknowledged the SAP MED relevance including its final</p>	
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	<p>pollution reduction targets and recommended to strengthen its implementation, develop indicators to facilitate and improve reporting and prepare the grounds for its future update with the view to identify the required measures for achieving GES in the Mediterranean including addressing sources up stream at driver level to promote pollution prevention policies. The report strongly recommended the update of the NAP endorsed by COP 15 in 2005 taking into account the SAP MED 2025 targets, the application of ecosystem approach as well as the implementation of Regional Plans adopted by the contracting parties in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.</p>	
<p>CCLME and GCLME and their contribution to LBSA protocol for the Abidjan Convention</p>	<p>On GCLM: During the SAP preparation phase, fifteen countries developed national action plans (NAPs) and six national demonstration projects were completed with results disseminated. The project invested substantially in individual capacity building with over 80 workshops. Together these represent important foundational steps towards the project development goal, to create an ecosystem-wide assessment and management framework for sustainable use of living and non-living resources in the GCLME. Key outputs in this area – reflecting strong partnerships with UNEP GPA, FAO, IMO and the Abidjan Convention – include development of regional fisheries management plans, national plans of action on land based sources of marine pollution (NPAs-LBS), adoption of the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBSA Protocol). The Protocol to the Abidjan Convention on LBSA was signed by the first six</p>	<p>ongoing</p>

	<p>plenipotentiaries at a meeting of the Convention Focal Points in June 2012 .Please note that the 15 NAPs contain the prioritized country driven projects which were presented to the donors' conference in Douala organized by the project to facilitate contact between countries and donor agencies.</p> <p>On CCLME: A TDA was finalised and a SAP is currently under development as part of a GEF financed project which started in 2010 for 5 years: LBS Protocol is currently under development , the first part regarding inventory of pollutants has been finalised and the second part concerning the strategies to be defined to mitigate will be developed (consultant to be recruited) to be finalised by end of this year and then to be endorsed by the regional working group of CCLME Outputs further include Strengthened existing transboundary waters institutions and regional policies and instruments; Stakeholders' involvement in transboundary waterbody priority setting and strategic planning, including 7 functioning National Inter-Ministry Committees; Improved knowledge and capacity to address concerns on 'Marine Living Resources' and 'Biodiversity, Habitat and Water Quality'; Demonstration activities and related costs/benefits valuations addressing priority transboundary concerns.</p>	
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3. Strengthen capacities at the regional level and national level on marine and coastal governance

3.1 Enhance visibility of the RSCAPs in terms of its governance mandate and to communicate outcomes of the regional governance review.

UNEP has been working to increase visibility of the RSCAPs at various aspects. In 2014, the Regional Seas Programme has celebrated its 40th anniversary. To commemorate the anniversary, campaign materials and a summary report have been produced. Two papers on regional ocean governance were also produced to examine and address currently fragmented ocean governance. The RSCAPs were called for inputs and contributions for key processes such as on the development of the African Ocean Governance Strategies. Continuous efforts are needed to increase the visibility and enhance the role of the RSCAPs. UNEP's Regionalization Strategy²² for the coming years could facilitate the process.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
White paper on regional oceans governance developed with two case studies targeting East Asia and West and Central Africa.	The publication "Regional Oceans Governance: making Regional Seas Programmes, Regional Fisheries Bodies and Large Marine Ecosystem Mechanisms Work Better Together" is expected to be launched in October 2015.	October 2015
UNEP, IASS and IDDRI developed a paper on the regional approach to biodiversity in the areas beyond the national jurisdiction	UNEP, IASS and IDDRI prepared a discussion paper on the regional approach to biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, which was discussed at the 2014 Ocean Governance Potsdam workshop in October 2014.	October 2014
Side event on regional approach to biodiversity in the areas beyond the national jurisdiction was held in NY	A side event on this was organised in June 2014 in New York where cases of OSPAR, Mediterranean, Nairobi Convention, CARICOM, Abidjan Convention and South Pacific were introduced.	June 2014
Communication strategy with DCPI finalised with focus on the 40th Anniversary of the Regional Seas Programme	Regional Seas @ 40 "Setting a Course for Regional Seas" has been published online ²³ . Campaign materials highlighting Regionals Seas' 40th anniversary have been distributed.	2014
Relevant regional seas were called to cooperate and contribute to the implementation of the paragraph 14 of the Cairo Declaration where the African ministers decided to develop an African ocean	An initial telephone conference was organised among UNEP, MAP, PERSGA, Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions. An informal meeting is scheduled for 19 October 2015 to prepare a more	October 2015

²² citation

²³

governance strategy and to organise a regional conference in 2016.	concrete plan to implement this decision.	
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3.2 Strengthen and facilitate inter-regional cooperation

As shown below, further efforts are needed to create opportunities for inter-regional cooperation among RSCAPs. It is necessary for UNEP to increase its efforts to collect case studies and analyse potential areas for cooperation between RSCAPs. However, it should be noted that thematic collaborations have occurred. For example, experience of wastewater management at PERSGA was presented at ROPME meeting.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Twinning arrangements occurring to varying degrees between OSPAR-Abidjan Convention, COBSEA-NOWPAP, PERSGA-ROPME, MAP - Bucharest Convention (Black Sea)- Tehran Convention (Caspian Sea).	Exchange of knowledge and experiences has increased between Regional Seas Secretariats.	2014
Exchange of lessons among the SIDS relevant regional seas (SPREP, CEP, Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions) with initial focus on green/blue economy.	Organization of the regional green/blue economy workshops (Caribbean, West Indian Ocean) with the Melanesia to be organised in the fourth quarter 2015.	2015

3.3 Facilitate partnerships between RSCAPs and RFMOs

UNEP has started hosting workshops to transfer the collaborative experiences between OSPAR and NEAFC to other regions. UNEP will share the information from the workshops with the RSCAPs to replicate the successful Collaborative Agreement. As the visioning processes in 2014 identified that the partnership building with RFMOs is important for integrated ocean governance, UNEP will keep facilitating this process.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Ongoing project "Securing the Ecological Foundation for Fish Food Security in a Changing Ocean", focusing on partnership between Abidjan Convention and RFMOs	Three tow project preparation workshops, the final project document was prepared and submitted to the Government of Norway ²⁴ .	2014 - 2015

²⁴ http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/globalmeetings/Abidjan_meeting_july_2014/Abidjan_meeting.asp

A global workshop “Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Meeting of Mainstreaming Marine Biodiversity in Fisheries” is under preparation with CBD	Two regional workshops (South Pacific and Southern Indian Ocean) are scheduled in 2015 and the global meeting in September 2016, Busan, the Republic of Korea.	2015 – 2016
Workshop being prepared for Cartagena convention and WECAFC with NEAFC	An agreement was signed between UNEP and FEAFC and this workshop is scheduled for December 2015 in Trinidad and Tobago.	December 2015

3.4 Identifying suitable financial mechanisms to implement RSCAPs and their Protocol

There is a lack of efforts on the side of UNEP to identify potential financial mechanism to assist activities at RSCAPs. In 2006 the report entitled “Financing the Implementation of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans”²⁵ has published but since then no analysis on funding mechanism has been conducted. Although the RSCAPs receive funds from GEF, other funding sources such as the private sector need to be analyzed particularly for the secretariats that are financially unstable.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
“Financing the implementation of regional seas conventions and action plans” was developed in 2006 but no follow-up seems to be conducted.	Not Applicable	-

3.5 Include RSCAPs inputs into international processes, i.e. (Barbados +20)

UNEP facilitated the RSCAPs to be important partner for the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. In the coming years, it will be important for UNEP to closely work with the RSCAPs in order to assist follow-up activities.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Regional seas registered as the partnership for SIDS to implement the Barbados Action Programme.	Regional seas has been registered as the partnership before and during the Samoa Conference and considered to be a main partnership to implement the ocean related paragraphs in the Samoa Pathway.	2014

²⁵ <http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/publications/reports/RSRS/pdfs/rsrs180.pdf>

3.6 Give further consideration to UNEP Governing Council Resolution of oceans and role of the RSCAPs vis-à-vis Rio+20

The role of RSCAPs has been reemphasized in the UNEP Governing Council Decision 27. As the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been adopted based on the outcomes of Rio +20 and the indicators will be decided in 2016, UNEP needs to consider the potential roles the RSCAPs may be able to play in facilitating Member States to achieve the SDG targets related to oceans.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Oceans decision taken at 27th session of the UNEP Governing Council	Decision 27/6 2 (c) stated: Invites member States of existing regional seas conventions and action plans: (b) To strengthen the capacity necessary for the effective implementation of the existing regional seas conventions and action plans	February 2013
Ocean issues were included in the decision of the UNEA1	UNEA 1/8 Ecosystem-based adaptation noted coastal erosion and ocean acidification under the context of climate change	June 2014

4. Support the provision of tools to decouple economic growth from environmental pressures in the marine and coastal environment by promoting resource efficiency and productivity, including assessing the value of the services provided by these key ecosystems

4.1 Raising awareness on the utilization of market-based instruments and economic valuation to support management decision making and policy settings

UNEP has published various technical reports on Green Economy and Blue Economy to promote the use of economic valuation. However, it is not clear to what extent the awareness was raised due to the lack of clear indicator.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Publication “Green Economy for Oceans: Success Stories” is being prepared	The case studies presented in the report are expected to inspire implementation of Blue Economy at ground level.	October 2015

4.2 Technical assistance through regional/national workshops related to resource efficiency, with particular emphasis on identification of fiscal policies that promote green sectoral transformations related to the marine and coastal environment

Workshops have been held to increase capacities on the green economy for oceans in the Wider Caribbean and the Western Indian Ocean region. However, further emphasis will be needed on resource efficiency and fiscal policies in the coming years in the context of the SDGs.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Regional workshop on the green economy for oceans and SIDS held in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention).	The capacity of the region to implement green economy has increased.	April 2013
Regional workshop on green economy for oceans and SIDS held in the Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention). Workshop hosted by the Government of Seychelles.	The capacity of the region to implement green economy has increased.	2015

4.3 Technical assistance at the national level in the preparation of scoping studies related to sectoral transformative policies in the marine and coastal environment (enabling conditions, identifying and capturing value, and sectoral transformation/reform)

Limited activities have been done to provide technical assistance at national level. UNEP will need to work closely with the RSCAPs to enable sectoral transformation at national level due to the limited capacity and resources.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
The Barbados Green Economy Scoping Study (GESS) was launched on World Environment Day 2014.	The partnership catalyzed multiple projects on Green Economy under GEF Small Grants Programme.	2014

4.4 Disseminate methodologies for economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services, in-line with The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Oceans, in the RSCAPs through regional workshops

The Guidance manual on valuation of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting in SIDS²⁶ was published in 2014. Regional workshops were conducted only in the South East Pacific Region. Regional workshops in other regions should be developed in collaboration with the RSCAPs.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
GEF Project on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in development phase.	The project concept is being developed, but no funding confirmed for this project.	2014-2015
Two Regional capacity building workshops on	The first workshop created an	2011, 2013

²⁶ Available at: <http://web.unep.org/ourplanet/march-2015/unep-publications/guidance-manual-valuation-and-accounting-ecosystem-services-small>

economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services held for South Pacific Region (Lima Convention/CPPS)	understanding of economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services and to identify pilot case studies at the national level. The second workshop analysed the results and shared the experiences of the pilot case studies.	
Guidance manual on valuation of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting in SIDS was prepared.	The manual on valuation and accounting of ecosystem service in Small Island Developing States was published and launched in January 2015 in New York.	December 2014

5. Strengthen coordination and build necessary capacities at the regional and national levels to improve global knowledge and trends on the status of the marine environment, contributing to the World Oceans Assessment (Regular Process)

5.1 Assist in building capacities at the regional level on integrated assessments on the marine and coastal environment, with particular emphasis on regional priority issues as identified by the outline of the World Oceans Assessment

5.2 Technical assistance to RSCAPs in the organization of workshops on the World Oceans Assessment

5.3 Support the Group of Experts of the World Oceans Assessment

5.4 Promote the coordination of regional chapters of the World Oceans Assessment through the platform of the RSCAPs

UNEP has extensively provided technical and financial support for the workshops on the World Oceans Assessment. It should be highlighted that UNEP and Nairobi Convention published a regional state of marine environment report out of this process. This kind of regional marine environmental reports should feed into the Global Environment Outlook prepared by UNEP²⁷.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Regional capacity building workshops on the World Oceans Assessment held with the coordination of the Regional Seas	UNEP provided technical and financial support for six of the eight workshops held in Santiago in September 2011 (at the invitation of the Government of Chile), in Sanya in February 2012 (at the invitation of the Government of China), in Miami in November 2012 (at the	2011-2013

²⁷ The next Global Environment Outlook (GEO 6) is under preparation: <http://www.unep.org/geo/>

	invitation of the Government of the United States of America), in Maputo in December 2012 (at the invitation of the Government of Mozambique), in Brisbane in February 2013 (at the invitation of the Government of Australia), and in Grand Bassam in October 2013 (at the invitation of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire). Each workshop aimed to consider the scope and methods of the WOA, the information available in the region where it was held, and capacity-building needs in that region.	
UNEP provided support to Group of Experts of the World Oceans Assessment.	Funds were provided to the Regular Process Trust Fund to support members of the Group of Experts from developing countries. The European Union also provided funds through UNEP for the support of the Group of Experts.	2012-14
UNEP provided support to Nairobi Convention in the development of state of marine environment report for the Western Indian Ocean ²⁸	The WIO - RSOCR is by product from the Capacity Building Workshops organized by DEWA and the Regional Seas Programme to provide technical and scientific support to the first phase of the Regular Process. It is the first integrated assessment report of the region to be facilitated by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. The RSOCR's main objectives are to i) provide a comprehensive baseline, ii) highlight main opportunities, iii) describe successes and challenges, iv) identify capacity building needs, v) identify knowledge gaps, and vi) propose policy options.	2015

5.5 Strengthen mechanisms to sustain environmental data at regional and national level, capitalizing on strategic synthesis efforts (WOA).

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
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http://www.unep.org/NairobiConvention/Publications/Regional_State_of_Coast_Report_for_the_Western_Indian_Ocean.asp

Publication “Measuring Success – Indicators for Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans”	The publication was submitted to UNEP SDG Task Force and Inter-Agency SDG indicators working group. It was also presented to ICP on Sustainable Development and Oceans in May 2015.	Dec 2014
Launching of the Regional Seas Indicator Working Group, 23 October 2015, Istanbul	Based on the recommendations from the 2014 technical workshop, UNEP would like to launch regional seas indicator working group, and the results of the working group should be provided to the continuing discussion on the SDG indicators ²⁹ .	October 2015

6. Strengthen collaboration mechanisms with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UN Agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

6.1 Fundraising to support integration through partnership demonstration projects

Workshops are planned to facilitate collaborative mechanism between the RSCAP and RFB in the Caribbean region. UNEP will undertake further fundraising to replicate the experience to assist creation of collaborative arrangement between RSCAPs and RFBs in other regions.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Workshops to facilitate future collaborative mechanism between CEP and WECAFC	-	December 2015

6.2 Identifying opportunities for RSCAPs in global initiatives (private sector, Global Partnership for Oceans, Oceans Compact, etc.)

6.3 Demonstrating, promoting and communicating contributions of the RSCAPs to global initiatives, MEAs and relevant partners

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Underway as opportunities emerge – example Regional Chapters of the World Ocean Council.	See section 5	2011-2013
Cooperation is being established with the Convention on the Biological Diversity and	See above on the mangrove initiative.	2015

²⁹ <http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/40YearsofAction/IndicatorRSMMeeting-2015/tabid/1060470/Default.aspx>

the Ramsar Convention, based on the mangrove report.		
UNEP has been requested to support the implementation of the Marine Spatial Planning related decision of the CBD COP.	See section 1.3 above	2014-2015
UNEP is providing its developed tools to the Sustainable Ocean Initiative in support of the CBD parties achieving the Aichi targets.	UNEP facilitate the input from the regional seas conventions and action plans to Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) regional capacity building workshops	2015
Collaboration underway with Global Partnership for Oceans, especially in Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)	A workshop was organized to facilitate collaboratio	2014
Three RSCAPs will implement data management system for inforMEA to enhance information sharing among MEAs	It is expected that by participating in the inforMEA project, collaboration grounds with other MEAs will be identified ³⁰ .	2015

6.4 Coordinate blue carbon policy assessments by developing a common approach

Policy assessments have been conducted in ROPME and PERSGA regions.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Blue carbon policy assessments underway in ROPME (Tehran Convention) and PERSGA (Jeddah Convention)	The publication of blue carbon assessment in the PERSGA region was published.	2013

6.5 Coordinate Coral Reef Partnership

UNEP has coordinated Coral Reef Partnership and substantial outcomes have been seen as described below. For the coming years, it is expected that more regional seas will make use of the guidance materials on the monitoring in order to conserve coral reef of the regions.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Consultation with RSCAP and other entities on partnership development including Partnership Workshop organized during GLOC-2 in October 2013	Report from partnership workshop; Draft work programme and terms of reference for the partnership prepared	2014
Development of UNEP Project Document for the partnership under PoW 2014-15 and 2016-17	Project document specifying activities, deliverables, contribution to UNEP PoW and work plan approved in January 2015;	Jan 2015

³⁰ <http://informea.org/>

Initiation of activities in consultation with RSCAP and technical partners, including detailed activity planning and subcontracting	Activities initiated in all substantive work areas of the partnership, legal instruments prepared.	March 2015
Guidelines on resilience assessment to support spatial as well as sectoral planning in coral reef areas, and development of datasets on climate change exposure scenarios for better prioritization of reef management	Expected outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - statistically downscaled climate model projections for the worlds coral reefs over 50 years - guidance on resilience indicators, assessment and application of assessment findings in reef management - PIF on managing coral reefs for resilience 	Ongoing, expected completion Q1 2016
Report on mesophotic reefs, their biodiversity, ecosystem services and their role in supporting resilience of shallow reef habitat, with GRID-Arendal	Expected outputs: Report on mesophotic reefs, similar in format to Rapid Response Assessments prepared by GRID-Arendal, including recommendations for science as well as management and policy.	Ongoing, expected completion Q4 2015
A science to policy brief on wastewater pollution on coral reefs, with the Global Wastewater Initiative.	Expected outputs: science to policy brief on wastewater pollution on coral reefs, including recommendations on management as well as monitoring of wastewater impacts on coral reefs	Ongoing, expected completion Q4 2015
Expansion of the Green Fins approach for environmental stewardship in the dive tourism industry and preparation of a comprehensive Green Fins Toolbox of guidance materials to facilitate further replication	Expected Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - comprehensive Green Fins Toolbox of guidance materials - '2 minutes on Oceans' video on sustainable diving and snorkelling <p>Expansion of Green Fins in Asia is underway. Initial discussion on introduction of Green Fins to the Mediterranean is underway with MAP</p>	Ongoing, expected completion Q1 2016
Demonstration project on the use of economic instruments to finance reef management with CEP/SPAW-RAC	Expected Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishment of a marine managed area, a public private partnership agreement, and a payment for ecosystem services scheme based on coral reef ecosystem services at a pilot site in Barbados - Feasibility studies for project replication in other locations - guidance on how coral reefs can be used as basis for economic 	Ongoing, expected completion Q3 2016

	instruments.	
Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Caribbean report	Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs: 1970-2012, launched in 2014. Based on this draft recommended standards for coral reef monitoring indicators and methods in the Wider Caribbean have been developed, several countries have already committed to using these, and further application in national programmes is being supported through SPAW-RAC.	Q3 2014
GCRMN reporting in other Regional Seas, drawing on experiences from the Caribbean	Preparation of Guidelines for Development of Regional GCRMN reports initiated, led by the GCRMN Scientific Director. Regional GCRMN reporting process have been initiated in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Western Indian Ocean through the Indian Ocean Commission and Nairobi Convention, - the Eastern Tropical Pacific, where discussions are underway with CPPS; - in the Pacific Islands, where initial data mapping is underway supported by France. and discussions are underway with SPREP 	Expected Q4 2015 Expected completion 2016-17
Policy outreach through RSCAP as well as global fora	Partnership work and outputs are reflected in decisions of intergovernmental bodies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems as contained in the annex to CBD CoP decision XII/23; - the Abidjan Convention Conference of Parties Decision 11/6 on coral reefs, which inter alia emphasizes the importance of preserving coral reef ecosystem services, collaboration on development and tools and methods as well as a network of marine protected areas for management of coral reefs; - the Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties Decision CP8/13 on 	

	<p>enhancing cooperation with partners, which includes preparation of a regional coral reef report for the WIO; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the SPAW protocol to the Cartagena Convention in relation to strengthening regional coral reef monitoring and implementation of the "ICRI Regional Strategy for the Control of Invasive Lionfish in the Wider Caribbean" developed with support from UNEP. 	
Preparations for first partnership steering committee meeting 30 November 2015	The meeting is expected to discuss and further define roles and responsibilities of partners, including the level and type of support provided to the partnership and the role of RSCAP as mechanisms for uptake, as well as the level and type of services provided by the Secretariat to partners. A work plan for 2016 should also be discussed and agreed.	Expected Q4 2015

Chapter 2: Implementation by Regional Seas Secretariats

Analysis of the implementation of the RSSD (2013-2016) by the RSCAPs

The level of implementation differs across different regions and it is difficult to make a general conclusion. The lack of specific targets and indicators also make the assessment on the achievement challenging. Without quantifiable targets comparisons between the RSCAPs with regards to the level of implementation cannot be made.

However, some commonalities have been shown through the analysis on the implementation on each strategy. For example, most of the RSCAPs seem to struggle with identifying financial mechanisms to improve their financial situation. Thematically, it was found that many of the RSCAPs do not implement activities on sustainable consumption and production patterns. As sustainable consumption and production is emphasized more in the SDGs as compared to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it could be worthwhile for the RSCAPs to consider relevant actions on this.

Various collaborative experiences have been reported in between regions and with relevant MEAs and international organisation. Yet, the low visibility of the RSCAPs has still been pointed out. Further efforts are needed both from the side of the RSCAPs and from UNEP to show the significance of activities implemented by the RSCAPs. By doing so, the RSCAPs could attract potential donors.

On the other hand, some of the RSCAPs have started working with the private sector particularly with the tourism sector. The RSCAPs may seek opportunities to work with different sectors in order to move towards integrated management.

Implementation of each action item by the RSCAPs

1. Effectively apply an ecosystem approach in the management of the marine and coastal environment

1.1 Contribute towards articulation of Sustainable Development Goal on oceans

It is not clear to what extent the RSCAPs were involved in the process of formulating the SDG Goal 14 on oceans from the reporting below. It is expected that the RSCAPs will be involved more for the implementation of the SDGs assisting member countries to achieve ocean-related targets.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
UNEP CEP assisted in providing technical comments and input to various regional and global reports, at regional workshops and meetings and through our Intergovernmental Meetings. Input was also provided to national governments and UNEP colleagues to assist in their negotiations on the Oceans SDG.	Sustainable Development Goal on Oceans Adopted.	September 2015.
HELCOM		
HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) sets objectives in order to reach the Baltic Sea in Good environmental status by 2021.	Follow up through regular HELCOM work and in particular in the periodic Ministerial Meetings	continuous 2021
PERSGA		
Strategic ecosystem management of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden project in collaboration with the WB	MPAs zoning plans and management support using MMAs concept Community capacity building on co-management and EBM Sustainable LMR based livelihoods options under EBM framework Monitoring to support EBM	2014-2017
Annual Training Program	50 regional and national training workshops addressing various topics on LMR and MPAs management; maritime	2013-2014

	pollution; environmental inspection LBA; EBM; MEAs; and Climate Change issues	
LMR: Regional MoU Concerning Cooperation in Fishery Management and aquaculture	Review of regional fishery legislation; the regional	MoU developed thr. 2013-2014 tb. adopted early 2016
Biodiversity and Regional MPAs Network	Capacity building/ exchange	Regular
Regional LBA Program	NPAs in all member states Capacity building and demo activities addressing wastewater (see 2.1 below) Regional strategy to reduce unintentional POPs emissions in coastal areas Marine litter assessment manual, training and cleaning campaigns	2012-2013 2014-2016 2013 2012-2015
Maritime Pollution Program	National and regional BW management strategies Capacity building in contingency planning & response; BW management; capacity building on imp. of MARPOL, London Convention; OPRC and others	2012-2014 2013-2014
Environmental monitoring	Dem activities to support national coastal monitoring program Installing online monitoring buoy in northern Gulf of Aqaba	2012-2014 2014
ROPME		
Publication of SOMER 2013 Summary: Sustainability Message to Decision- Makers		Oct 2013
Preparation of Strategic Directions for Sustainable ROPME Sea Area	Reorientation of ROPME Programme Activities	26-27 Jan 2015
SACEP		
<i>Sustainable Development Goal-14: Conserve and sustainably use the Oceans, Seas and Marine resources for Sustainable development.</i> Under this goal, South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) so far implemented the following projects / activities: <i>Goal-14.1: A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asian Seas Region.</i> The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) together with the United Nations Environment Programme –Global	Sub-Regional Workshop to Validate the Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia was held from 21 to 22 May 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Twenty-six participants representing government agencies and international / regional organizations participated at this important event. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A scoping study of nutrient Pollution document is ready for further preparation of a regional strategy by using the study report.	July 2015

<p>Programme of Action (UNEP-GPA) and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project implemented the project. The activities under this initiative include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An inventory of point/non- point sources of nutrients that end up in the coastal waters • Estimating the impact of nutrient enrichment on coastal waters • Develop and undertake actions to reduce nutrient inputs to agriculture as well as remedial measures to over eutrophication/hypoxia conditions in identified sites. • Development of a regional action plan and establishment of a regional policy forum to be pursued by member countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will enhance to implement the Manila declaration. • Created awareness among the stakeholders 	
<p>Goal-14.a: Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy (MCBS) for the South Asian Seas Region: South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), which acts as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the five SAS countries and other partners, has developed a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy (MCBS) for the South Asian Seas Region. This strategy focuses on clusters of relevant Aichi targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring Ecosystem Services and Wellbeing (Aichi Target 5,10,14, and 15) • Prevention of Species Extinction (Aichi Target 12); • Control of Alien Invasive Species (Aichi Target 9) • Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (Aichi Target 6 and 7) • Prevention of Marine Pollution (Aichi Target 8) • Effective and Equitable Governance of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (Aichi Target 11). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regional workshop for the Development of a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region was held from 10-12 July 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka. 52 members from different countries and organizations were participated in the regional workshop. • Created awareness among the stakeholders • It addressed the ecosystem services and wellbeing • Also has addressed relevant section of Aichi Target. • First Order Draft is circulated for comments of the member states of SASP. 	<p>December 2015 and will be continued</p>
<p>Goal-14.1: Regional Oil and Chemical</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SACEP signed a MoU with the 	<p>December,</p>

<p>Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asian Seas Region.</p> <p>A Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Spill Contingency Plan and associated MoU were developed in association with the International Maritime Organization for enhanced cooperation in the event of an Oil or Chemical spill in South Asian Seas region. Programme is aimed at assisting the South Asian Seas (SAS) region to develop a regional cooperation mechanism for marine pollution preparedness and response. The long-term objective of the project is the effective implementation of the OPRC Convention and the OPRC-HNS Protocol in South Asia region.</p>	<p>International Maritime Organization (IMO) on 29th August 2013 and the First Regional Meeting of the National Authorities Responsible for Oil Spill Preparedness and Response was held from 26-28 February 2014 - Colombo, Sri Lanka.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Maritime country of SAS regional will have their own National Oil and chemical Spill contingency Plan, • A regional Oil and chemical Spill Contingency Plan and associated MoU have been agreed upon by the SASP member states and only Government of India has to sign the MoU out of the 5 member states. Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have signed the MoU • It will reduce oil and chemical pollution in sea water • SACEP is coordinating the regional process. 	<p>2015. Ongoing activity</p>
<p>Goal-14.2: Regional Strategy and to set up a Task force to address Ballast Water Management in South Asian Seas Region.</p> <p>Ballast water can pose serious economic and ecological damage through introduction of invasive alien species to our coastal and marine waters. The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM) contains measures to prevent the potentially devastating effects of the spread of harmful aquatic organisms carried by ships' ballast water. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) organized the South Asia Regional Ballast Water Management Strategy Development Meeting in Mumbai, India in May 2012 and it was decided that SACEP, as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme, would be the Institutional Framework to support and finalize the draft regional BWM strategy and to ensure the execution of the Action Plan. With the financial and technical support from the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Meeting of the Regional Task Force and Workshop to Develop a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Ballast Water Management (BWM) in South Asia was held from 24 to 25 February 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka. • 32 members from different countries/ organization were participated in the meeting. • It aims to reduce introduction of invasive alien species in coastal and marine water; • A Regional Taskforce was established to address Ballast Water Management in South Asian Seas Region; • SACEP is coordinating the regional process; • It will create awareness among ship owner; • This process will save the marine and coastal ecology from invasive alien species. 	<p>Ongoing activity</p>

<p>International Maritime Organization (IMO), through the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme Coordination Unit, a two-day regional workshop was held in February 2014. Workshop resolutions, work plan and implementable timetable were sent to the National Focal Points of SASP as per the recommendations of the regional workshop. Another Regional Workshop is proposed to be held in the 4th quarter of 2015, after receiving the progress of achievements of the five maritime countries</p>		
<p>Goal-14.1: International Coastal Clean-up activities In the International Environment Calendar for each year, Saturday of 3rd week of September marks the International Coastal Cleanup Day, where events are organized to make the public aware of the growing problem of debris accumulated in coastal areas. Litter such as plastic bags, soda cans and broken glass are slow to degrade. Studies have shown that marine debris threatens over 265 different species of marine and coastal wildlife through entanglement, smothering, and interference with digestive systems. It is a problem that not only damages our marine and coastal ecosystems, but also affects the coastal tourism and public health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This activities may quantify the composition of marine debris; • It creates general public awareness • Enhance public participation • Ensuring sustainability of marine and coastal environment 	<p>Regular activities</p>

1.2 Utilize DPSIR approach (Driving, Forces, Pressures, State, Impact, Responses), including ocean acidification and the impacts of climate change

As shown below the RSCAPs utilized DPSIR approach for thematic areas including ocean acidification, climate change and biodiversity. The discussion on Regional seas Indicators will continue at the Regional Seas Indicators Workshop.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
This approach was used in the development and design of the GEF IWECO project.	GEF IWECO project was submitted and approved by the GEF in March 2015 and	Ongoing

	is now in its pre-inception phase.	
Provided Technical Input to the planning of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Sub-Regional Workshop on Ocean Acidification	Sub-regional Workshop held on Ocean Acidification by the OECS in early 2015. Opportunities for further collaboration identified during discussions of OECS Ministers of Environment Meeting in September 2015 attended by CAR/RCU.	Ongoing
Promote the issue of ocean acidification	Fact Sheet Prepared and shared on web site and social media	September 2015
Invited USA National Focal Point to make a presentation on Ocean Acidification at 14 th IGM and present Conference Room Paper for Discussion with support of Secretariat	Decision taken at 14 th IGM to promote the issue of Ocean Acidification at the regional level	Ongoing
NOWPAP		
Activities on assessing the threats on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region	Regional report as part of the UNEP global report on marine biodiversity	2010
OSPAR		
Application of DPSIR approach based on the EU's Marine Strategy Directives	Ensured application of EBM	2013-2015
Application of common, sub-region wide indicators for biodiversity, food web, pollution and other aspects of marine environment and pressures	Common indicators facilitated common monitoring scheme	2013-2015
Development of a comprehensive assessment of the North East Atlantic Marine Environment	The report will be an intermediate state to a fuller integrated quality report after 2020	2017
Published social and economic analysis on cumulative pressures	The report offered recommendations to achieve better data comparability within the region. A revised assessment for 2017 is planned based on Contracting Parties' national socio-economic reporting for the EU Marine Strategy Framework.	2013
OSPAR is working together with the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) to compile information on cumulative pressures and interactions within an ecosystem	Production of sub-regional summary reports	2015
Comparison of different national approaches to modelling cumulative effects of human activities on the marine environment	Now best approaches to assess cumulative human impacts are investigated and a pilot report and methodology is planned for 2017.	2015
PERSGA		
Current SOMER II	Guidelines for SOMER following the DPSIR approach	2016
Capacity building in monitoring OA	Regional workshop and liaison with OA International Centre at IAEA	2016
ROPME		

Meeting of Regional Task Force on Climate Change Dimension	Upcoming	Mar 2016
Technical Workshop on monitoring and assessment of SDS in the Marine Environment of RSA	Elaboration of a Regional Monitoring Programme	11-12 Oct 2015
SACEP		
<p>Goal-13.3: Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight the institutional mechanisms in strategy implementation How robust adaptation decision making can proceed in the face of uncertainty about climate change and its impacts. Explore practical adaptation policies and approaches, and share strategies for decision making from the international to the local scale. Introduce and examine new tools and methodologies for adaptation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Asia Regional Workshop on Lessons Learnt in Strategy Implementation on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in Water Sector was organized from 9 to 10 September 2014 at Colombo, Sri Lanka. Created awareness among the people Increased capacity building to address climate change 	September 2014

1.3 Streamline EBM into RSPs work programmes and their member states by sharing lessons learnt on ecosystem based approaches, including, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), Integrated coastal area and river basing management (ICARM), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and adaptation strategies (EBA)

All the regions reported demonstrated significant efforts on the implementation of the Ecosystem-Based Management as described below. For example, guidelines of EBM were prepared in several regions. The diverse experiences and lessons learnt need to be shared among the RSCAPs to learn from successful cases. Currently UNEP is preparing a knowledge exchange platform for a marine spatial planning and it could serve for the needs of such knowledge sharing.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
Case Studies and experiences shared through the CEP website, list serves, quarterly newsletters, social media, published case studies, and E mail communication with national and technical focal points.	Greater knowledge and awareness of EBM	Ongoing
Examples of the above provided during regional meetings and workshops either as power point presentations or hand outs.	Greater knowledge and awareness of EBM.	Ongoing
In 2015, CEP began implementation of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project partner meetings and site visits 	

<p>“Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management” project with funding from the Government of Italy, Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS). The project will develop capacities and information systems (and pilot test their application) that can be used by government and non-government agencies to make decisions on planning and managing coastal resources with an ecosystem based management (EBM) approach.</p>	<p>(May 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network and dialogue on EBM in Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) at GCFI conference (Nov. 2015) • Assessment and Design of Decision Support System (DSS)node at Pilot Site – Montecristi in Dominican Republic (Nov 2015) 	
COBSEA		
<p>Implemented in November 2007 the “Indramayu Pilot Project on Integrated Coastal Zone Management”, a district-level pilot activity that combine climate change adaptation measures into integrated coastal zone planning in Indramayu, Java island, Indonesia.</p>		2007
<p>Implemented the Sida Project ‘Spatial Planning in the Coastal Zone – Disaster Prevention and Sustainable Development’ from 2010 to 2013 focusing on spatial planning application in coastal zone management in six countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced the Regional Resource Document "<i>Spatial Planning in the Coastal Zone of the EAS Region: Integrating Emerging Issues and Modern Management Approaches</i>" and the "<i>Training and Capacity Building for Coastal Spatial Planning in the EAS Region: Menus and Syllabus</i>". These documents provide the integration of concepts such as climate change adaptation, disaster-risk reduction, ecosystem-based management and results-based management into existing coastal spatial planning policies and procedures. • Translated and adapted the Regional Resource Document into National Resource Documents (NRD) which included the 'national setting and national aspects' on spatial planning in the coastal zone in the country. • Developed training manuals including organization of training courses on coastal 		2010-2013

and marine spatial planning at regional and national levels.		
Produced in October 2011 the Regional Resource Document “A Regional Approach to the Sustainable and Ecosystem-Based Management of Coastal Erosion in the East Asian Seas Region: A Resource Document”. The document lays the foundation for a regional strategy or policy on coastal erosion in the region.		2011
Implemented the Yeosu Project “Addressing the Challenge of Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Erosion in the East Asian Seas – Initial Implementation of the COBSEA Regional Strategy” in six countries. Produced six National Assessment Reports on coastal vulnerabilities due to coastal erosion		
Participated in the National Workshop on the Application of Vietnam’s Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning - An Ecosystem Based Management Approach in May 2013 in Haiphong City, where a paper on Building Capacity to Apply Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning in COBSEA Member States was presented.		2013
HELCOM		
HELCOM BSAP overall applies the ecosystem approach	Implementation since 2007 -> 2021 Overview, document prepared for 2013 Ministerial Meeting	continuous
Maritime spatial planning (MSP): HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group has ensured more coherent regional planning since 2010.	Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020	2013
	MSP working group has dealt with the draft Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation, as agreed on in the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap.	2015/16
	Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group officially started in 2015. In addition to improving access, quality and compatibility of MSP related regional data, the sub-group’s work is hopefully incorporated into the 2 nd Holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea (release in 2018). The assessment will be built on core indicators, which are data products providing quantitative regional	2017 (indicator development) 2018 (Holistic assessment)

	assessment of different elements of the marine ecosystem of the Baltic Sea. The work on transboundary MSP will likely benefit from HELCOM indicators.	
Coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs) - see 3.6		
NOWPAP		
Activities on integrated coastal area and river basin management (ICARM) are being implemented by NOWPAP POMRAC since 2007	Regional report on EBM (called ICARM in NOWPAP) was prepared in 2013	2013
	Guidelines for ICARM (EBM) applications were published in 2015	2015
OSPAR		
Implementation of the North East Atlantic Environment Strategy and ministerial commitment	Application of EBM in the region to embody a holistic perspective in monitoring and assessment of activities as a basis for the policy discussion	ongoing
Integrate impacts of climate change and ocean acidification and needs for adaptation and mitigation in all aspect of its work	Integration of climate change aspects in the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy	ongoing
PERSGA		
Strategic ecosystem management project (see 1.1 above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two pilot MPAs sites for implementing demo activities and sharing lessons in EBM, co-management and MMAs Guidelines for EBM and livelihoods options in MPAs Assessment of fisheries legislations and policies to facilitate implementation of EBM and co-management 	2014-2017 2016-2017
Regional MoU concerning cooperation in fishery management	Committed to provide for ecosystem approach in fishery management (article 4.4)	2016
ROPME		
Regional Workshop on Ecosystem Based Management Approach	Upcoming	Mid Nov 2015
SACEP		
The following activities have been selected under Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) for implementation by the south Asian Sea Member states: Preparation of Coastal Profile, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project scope, i.c. identification and geographic boundary; Identification of issues and priorities; 	Following activities carried out by SACEP/SASP partly covers Item 1.3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of the Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy (MCBS) for the South Asian Seas Region Preparation of Regional Oil and 	Many activities carried out during 2000-2010 decade.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of development outlooks and strategies for their achievement and analysis for the social and economic implications of the proposal strategies • Identification of information gaps • Proposal for the preparation of a comprehensive and integrated management plan • Analysis of the legal and financial requirements posed by the ICZM project proposal and • Proposal for the institutional arrangement needed to support the co-ordination and implementation of the pilot project <p>Analysis and Forecasting , including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey and research on selected issues within sectors of human and economic activities; • Analysis of natural system and human and economic activities in the coastal areas; • Assessment of exposure to risk, e.g. sea-level rise. Natural hazards and preparation of resource atlas. 	<p>Chemical Spill Contingency Plan in South Asian Seas Region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of Regional Ballast Water Management Strategy in South Asian Seas Region. • Yearly Coastal Clean-up activities commemorate International Coastal Cleanup Day. 	
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2. Contribute to the implementation of the Manila Declaration of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA), in particular the partnerships on wastewater management, nutrients and marine litter.

2.1 Support the implementation of the GPA through the Land-based Sources of Pollution (LBS/A) Protocols and its annexes

The regions with LBS protocols continued implementing the protocol. Workshops were conducted to build capacity while relevant project activities contributed to implement the protocol. As it is difficult to know the effectiveness of the protocol, however, it is encouraged to assess the implementation level at national level in order to understand the effectiveness.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
AMEP Sub-Programme and projects such as GEF CReW, IWEco contribute directly to the LBS Protocol Implementation.	Ratification and Implementation of the LBS Protocol through various activities and projects.	Ongoing
PERSGA		
Regional Protocol Concerning Protection of Environment from LBS 2005	Develop NPAs	2012-2013
Regional LBA Program activities	Regional coordination meeting to promote implementation of the protocol	regular
ROPME		
Expert Meeting on the Impacts of HABs on Aquaculture		17-19 Feb 2013
Expert Meeting on Land-Based Activities	Adoption of a Survey Programme for Municipal Waste water in the RSA with a work plan and timetable	25-27 May 2015
Regional Training Course on the Analyses of Marine Algal Toxins		31 Aug-03 Sept 2015
SACEP		
Controlling Nutrient Loading and eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region	<p>Sub-Regional Workshop to Validate the Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia was held from 21 to 22 May 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Twenty-six participants representing government agencies and international/regional organizations participated at this important event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scoping Study document is final - Further recommendations has been made in the document. - SACEP will take necessary steps for the formulation of regional action plan for controlling land based source of pollution. - Development partner is needed for implementation 	July 2015

2.2 Develop Regional Action Plans with respect to one or more GPA priorities and Regional Partnership

Various Regional Action Plans were developed for the GPA-related activities as shown below. Since increasing number of regions has created Regional Action Plans, experiences could be shared to elucidate the means of effective implementation.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Wider Caribbean region was updated as part of the 2013-2014 Work Plan.	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter updated and endorsed by Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention.	Completed in 2014
Updated Regional Action Plan on Nutrients to be presented for technical endorsement in 2016.	First Meeting and Draft Action Plan developed. Updated Action Plan prepared and to be presented at experts meeting in February, 2016.	February 2016
UNEP CEP through the GEF CREW Project participated in the Global Wastewater Initiative.	GEF CREW Project Manager participated in initial discussions.	N/A
Commenced Development of Regional GEF PIF for Marine Litter/Plastics Management in the Caribbean	Zero draft prepared. CAR/RCU provided technical inputs and coordinating regional input	March, 2016
COBSEA		
In February 2008, published the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter for the East Asian Seas (RAP-MALI). ³¹		
HELCOM		
Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter prepared by cross-sectorial expert team, including consultations with other Regional Seas, with 30 regional actions listed and fully adopted.	2015
Regional status assessment on mitigating pharmaceuticals e.g. released through waste waters, followed by an Action Plan	Status report started in 2015. Case study proposal on emerging pollutants in water and wastewater granted UNESCO Project on Emerging Pollutants in Wastewater Reuse in Developing Countries (September 2015)	2016
Building a knowledge base on underwater noise towards a regional action plan on underwater noise in 2017/2018	Preparations started in 2015 with the agreement of the work plan. Ongoing drafting of the Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017	2017/2018
NOWPAP		
Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) was developed in 2007 and adopted by member states in 2008	RAP MALI is being implemented ever since	2008-now

³¹http://www.cobsea.org/documents/Meeting_Documents/Marine%20Litter/Marine%20Litter%20Report%202008.pdf

Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) on oil and HNS spills was adopted in 2008, and then periodically updated	RCO is being implemented ever since	2008-now
OSPAR		
“Fishing for litter”, beach litter monitoring programme has been established	Facilitate actions to achieve the target for a reduction in 2020	ongoing
Monitoring plastics ingested by seabirds under its Ecological Quality Objectives has been established	Facilitate actions to achieve the target for a reduction in 2020	ongoing
Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	The action plan forms the basis of regional measures to deliver Good Environmental Status. More than 60 actions have been taken both regionally and nationally.	ongoing
PERSGA		
Regional guidelines for marine litter assessment	Manual and training	2014
Regional Plan for Marine litter management	Action plan	2012
Regional guidelines for wastewater management	Manual and training	2015
Demo activities for best practices in wastewater treatment and reuse	Demonstration activities; exchange of experience and best practice	2015-2017
SACEP		
Regional Action Plan on Ballast Water Management in South Asian Seas Region	It will help the marine and coastal ecosystem from invasive alien species	Ongoing
Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan in South Asian Seas Region.	It will reduce the marine pollution from ship oil and chemical.	Ongoing
Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity strategy for South Asian Seas Region	It will assist to conserve the marine biodiversity in South Asian Seas Region.	Ongoing

2.3 Coordinate launches for regional chapters of the three Global Partnerships (Nutrients-Management, Marine Litter and Waste water) as appropriate

Diverse activities have been undertaken especially under the current attention on Marine Litter around the world. On nutrients, HELCOM is taking an inspiring step to develop national standards for nutrient content in manure to reduce the nutrient pollution in the ocean. The other nutrients will be able to learn from the experience at HELCOM in near future.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
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CEP		
Caribbean Node for Marine Litter to be launched in November, 2015 and co-hosted by GCFI and UNEP CAR/RCU in collaboration with UNEP GPA	TORs for Node Developed, Planning for Workshop ongoing;	November, 2015
Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management launched in 2014 to be operationalized in February 2016 in collaboration with UNEP GPA.	Draft Mechanism for Platform Developed; Planning for Workshop ongoing;	February, 2016
HELCOM		
Waste water: Development of the regional recommendation on sustainable sewage sludge management in order to enhance recycling of its valuable components and protect the environment against contamination.	HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge management	2016
Nutrient management: Promotion of the effective nutrient management at farm level.	Setting up tools to promote nutrient accounting at farm level.	2018
Development of national standards for nutrient content in manure	Guidelines/recommendation on the use of national standards for nutrient content in manure	2016
Implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme	Nutrient input to all the sub-basins does not exceed allowed level.	2021
Litter: Implementation of the new Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter will benefit from the joint efforts conducted through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter	Ongoing (e.g. webinar 26.6.2015, UNESCO-SIWA case study on microplastics)	2015 ->
NOWPAP		
NOWPAP is a member of GPWM since 2011 and GPML since 2014	NOWPAP is hosting a NW Pacific regional node of the GPML	2011-now
Cooperation with GESAMP on micro-plastics	Inviting expert of GESAMP Working Group 40 to NOWPAP 2014 ICC workshop	2014
PERSGA		
Regional guidelines for marine litter assessment	Manual and training	2014
Regional Plan for Marine litter management	Action plan	2012
Regional guidelines for wastewater management	Manual and training	2015
Demo activities for best practices in wastewater treatment and reuse	Demonstration activities; exchange of experience and best practice	2015-2017
ROPME		
Regional Expert Meeting on Hazardous Wastes Monitoring and Management	Upcoming	Nov 2015
SACEP		

<p>SACEP together with UNEP-GPA and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project developed a project concept “Controlling Nutrient Loading and eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region with the main objective of reducing and controlling nutrient loading into the coastal waters of the South Asian Seas Region through development of a regional action plan and policy forum/framework.</p>	<p>A scoping study of nutrient Pollution document is ready for further preparation of regional strategy by using the study report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will enhance to implement the Manila declaration. • Created awareness among the stakeholders 	<p>July, 2015</p>
<p>SACEP organized national workshops in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in February - March 2010 to propagate the idea of beach certification. These workshops provided a platform to further development of national programmes. Individual countries have agreed to pursue a follow up on Beach Certification Programme.</p>	<p>Created public awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution free marine and coastal environment • More tourist attraction. 	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Marine Litter arising from land based littering and disposal of solid wastes by ships is a growing problem in the SAS region. This year SACEP with Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) of government of Sri Lanka had country wide beach cleanup programme from 19-24 September to commemorate the International Coastal Cleanup day, 2015. Government of India has also organized the beach cleanup programme with collaboration with SACEP since 2006.</p>	<p>Created public awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution free marine and coastal environment • More tourist attraction. 	<p>Ongoing</p>

2.4 Facilitate support and awareness raising to civil society

Different methods are used to raise awareness on Land-Based Pollutions. Website, social media, coastal clean-up, workshops and conferences targeting different stakeholders have been used. Among them PERSGA is unique in giving workshops to school teachers. Engagement of the public is crucial in raising awareness and the RSCAPs are in a good position to identify regionally effective ways of engaging the public.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
The CETA sub-programme of UNEP CAR/RCU facilitates this as an ongoing programme activity. This takes place through: (1) Web Site; (2) Social Media; (3) Marking of Commemorative Days; (4) Engagement of and Capacity Building of Media; (5) Participation in a range of conferences, exhibitions at both national and regional levels.	Various outreach and awareness material targeted at civil society developed.	Ongoing
COBSEA		
In 2008, provided small grants support to three COBSEA member countries (Cambodia, Indonesia and Viet Nam) for pilot activities to increase awareness and strengthen capacities on marine litter at national level.	-	2008
Organized a regional awareness raising campaign and workshop on marine litter in September 2008 in Pattaya, Thailand.	-	2008
HELCOM		
HELCOM as a key provider of regional information on marine environment	HELCOM information sources (e.g. website) are well found and used, especially specialized areas such as the extensive data and map services	continuous
Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	Full section dedicated to actions to educate and raise awareness	2015->
NOWPAP		
Annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaign, including workshop on marine litter management since 2006	Enhanced public awareness of marine litter problems	2006-now
PERSGA		
Regional strategy and program for environmental awareness and education	National training workshops for school teachers in charge of environmental clubs in the member states	2012-2013
	National training workshops for journalists at various media in member states	2013-2014
	Cleaning campaigns and awareness workshops in coastal cities and celebrating Red Sea Day	2013, 2014 (annual)
SACEP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beach Cleanup activities to commemorate International Coastal Cleanup day. Celebration of world environment day and other days related to ocean. 	<p>This programme has created mass general public awareness including youth and children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased public participation in beach cleanup activities+. 	Regular Programme

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosted up awareness for better environment and pollution free ocean 	
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3. Strengthen capacities at the regional level and national level on marine and coastal governance

3.1 Strengthen relationships with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)

There have been only limited cases of collaboration between RSCAPs and RFMOs/ RFBs. However, it should be noted that OSPAR has a successful collaborative agreement with the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). Efforts are being made to replicate this type of arrangement in other regions. For example, in the Caribbean workshop is planned for December 2015 to strengthen the relationship between CEP and Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
Collaboration is ongoing and takes place within the framework of the SPAW Protocol and in particular under the recently concluded CLME project	WECAFC will form part of the governance structure for the new CLME+ project.	Ongoing
HELCOM		
Strengthening cooperation with BALTFISH		continuous
OSPAR		
OSPAR works closely with the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)	Work has been undergoing to address the issues in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ)	ongoing
	OSPAR and NEAFC developed and agreed on a mechanisms for collaboration via information exchange on the development of area-based marine protection between both regional and multilateral organisation operating in ABNJ in the North East Atlantic	2014
	OSPAR and NEAFC Contracting Parties have started regular meetings to complete the detailed information annexes of the Collective	ongoing

	Arrangement	
	OSPAR and NEAFC have collaborated on the development of proposals for several areas that meet the scientific criteria for Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)	-
PERSGA		
Collaborate with FAO for strengthen regional cooperation in fishery management	Develop regional MoU concerning fisheries management and aquaculture	2016
SACEP		
At this moment, there is no partnership with Regional Fisheries and Management Organization (RFMOs).		

3.2 Formalising partnerships and demonstrating joint working relationships with relevant regional and organizations, such as river basin organizations, Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) projects, as appropriate

Several cases of collaboration have been described below. For example cooperation between CEP and CLME, NOWPAP and PEMSEA and NOWPAP and PICES have been made. In the context of ocean governance, all the RSCAPs are urged to formulate strategy for regional cooperation as appropriate.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
CEP will be working with the CLME+ Project to implement a Pilot Project in the North Brazil Shelf region that demonstrates EBM with both land and marine components.	Project Design and implementation to take place by early 2016	End of 2018
COBSEA		
Developed and implemented three Mangroves for the Future (MFF) Regional Grant Initiatives: 1. Mapping and Enhancing Natural Resource Governance in Small Island Communities 2. Protecting Marine Ecosystems in MFF Countries Using the Green Fins Approach Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities, Ecosystems and Economies to Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Erosion	-	
Development of the Project Preparation Grant of the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Strategic Action Programme (SCS SAP) Implementation	-	

HELCOM		
Cooperating with river basin commissions in order to engage them in the work on compilation of the data on transboundary nutrients load on the Baltic Sea.	Improvement of the quality of the data on nutrient input to the Baltic Sea.	continuous
NOWPAP		
Cooperation with the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) project	Close relations with YSMLE, NOWPAP might become a member of the Yellow Seas Commission (if and when established)	2007-now
Cooperation with PEMSEA	Close relations with PEMSEA, NOWPAP is a member of the Partnership Council	2007-now
Cooperation with PICES	Close relations with PICES, some NOWPAP experts are ex-officio members of PICES working groups	2006-now
PERSGA		
Will participate in the 17th Consultative Committee Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems and Coastal partners, Paris, 29 Sep- 2 Oct 2015	-	2015
ROPME		
Development of a Road Map for TDA in the RSA	Implementation of the TDA/SAP Framework	2015 and onwards
SACEP		
<p>SACEP with Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME) has implemented a project to address 'Controlling Nutrient Loading and Eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region' with the assistance from UNEP-GPNM (Global Partnership on Nutrient Management).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with IMO for preparation of regional Oil and Chemical Spill contingency Plan and Regional strategy for Ballast Water Management. • Partnership with UNEP for the preparation of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for South Asian Region. • Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change. • Partnership with Nitrogen Group of India for carried out a scoping study of nutrient 	These partnerships help SACEP to implement the Action Plan of SASP.	Continuous process

<p>pollution in South Asian Seas Region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership with IUCN, Sri Lanka for desk study of nutrient pollution in South Asian Seas Region. 		
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3.3 Provisions of inputs into international processes

It is clear that the RSCAPs are able to contribute more towards global processes based on their extensive experiences with ocean-related issues. Therefore it is urged that UNEP takes extra care to vigorously engage RSCAPs in global discussions.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
CAR/RCU provides input of processes on request from UNEP HQ, UNEP ROLAC, UNDAF and other partner agencies and Intergovernmental Processes. These include Meeting of Conference of Parties of related Conventions as well as UN processes.	Inputs incorporated as appropriate.	Ongoing
HELCOM		
Regular reporting, upon request, to DOALOS	Annual input	annual
NOWPAP		
Cooperation with CBD on establishing regional EBSAs	Nomination of NOWPAP experts for two EBSAs workshops	2013-2015
PERSGA		
Activity reports		
SACEP		
A partner in the consultation process of South Asia Environment Outlook South Asia partner for UNEP Global Synthesis Marine Biodiversity Series Post 2015 Development Agenda	Publications for South Asian Perspective Available at SACEP website ³²	Continuous process.

3.4 Disseminating information, among members and parties, on joint actions promoting RSCAPs at all level and promoting these actions

³² www.sacep.org

Newsletter is one of the most common forms of communication across the RSCAPs. In addition social media, database and geo-tagged system are used. In order to increase the visibility of the activities conducted by the Secretariats as well as by the member countries, the RSCAPs are encouraged to regularly update their websites while using other communication materials.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
CAR/RCU disseminates information as part of its Communications Strategy through various modalities and outreach products.	KAP Survey to be conducted in 2015 to evaluate effectiveness of outreach efforts	Ongoing
Clearing House Mechanisms established to share information on programmes, projects and activities	Facebook and Twitter Accounts Established, List Serves and Mailing Groups used to disseminate information	Ongoing
GEF CREW Project being used to test sustainable financing mechanisms for wastewater as per Annex III of the LBS Protocol	Ongoing	December 2016
Audit conducted in 2015	Need for Resource Mobilization Strategy Identified – to be tabled at next IGM	
NOWPAP		
Being done regularly		2005-now
PERSGA		
Production of PERSGA AI-Sanbuk Newsletter	Awareness and education	regular
PERSGA website news and events	Awareness and education	regular
Installing online tracking geo-referenced system for PERSGA activities in the region	Accessible geo-referenced projects data for regional exchange and synergy with partners	2014-2015
ROPME		
Development of second phase of ROPME Integrated Information System for Ecosystem-Based application modules, marine scientific models and networking with other information systems. Modules include coral reefs mangroves, fisheries, marine turtles, marine mammals, invasive species, HABs, marine mortality, radiation, hazardous wastes and Red List of Species	Establishment of a Regional Integrated Information System	Started in 2013 and continued
SACEP		
A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asian Seas Region	It is circulated among the member countries and website of SACEP ³³ and website of FAO ³⁴	June, 2015

³³ www.sacep.org

³⁴ www.fao.org

Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for South Asian Seas Region (First Order Draft)	1 st order draft was circulated among the SAS countries for their comments. It will be finalized in the next regional meeting which is scheduled to be held at December, 2015.	February, 2015
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3.5 Identifying suitable financial mechanisms to implement RSCAPs and their Protocols

From the report below, it seems that most of the RSCAPs mainly rely on contribution from participating countries. However it is also possible to look into other financial mechanisms to supplement budget especially in the region where financial sustainability of the Secretariat has been a challenge.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
Proposal for changes to Financial Rules tabled at 14 th IGM and Meeting of Contracting Parties.	Decision taken at last IGM to amend existing Financial Rules to make specific reference to payment of outstanding contributions, and the establishment of a working capital reserve by the Secretariat	
NOWPAP		
NOWPAP member states provide adequate resources, increasing their contributions gradually		
PERSGA		
Collaboration with GEF agencies and member states to develop new projects addressing regional priorities		
Collaborate with member states to include coastal issues in NAPAs and other portfolio projects		
Partnerships with the government and private sector to support monitoring activities	Establish online monitoring station in the northern PERSGA region	2015
SACEP		
SACEP is the secretariat of South Asian Seas Programme (SASP). SASP is operated by the country contributions of the 5 member countries (e.g. Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka).	Annual agreed country contribution by the member countries.	Regular Process
The activities are carried out on individual MoUs / LoAs on a case to case basis.	Projects are implemented by individual MoU/ LoA with development partners.	Regular

3.6 Facilitate intra and inter-regional cooperation and support and/or initiate networks. (i.e. Marine Protected Area (MPA) networks)

The Target 14.5 of the SDG states “conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information”. Based on the extensive experiences of the RSCAPs on the MPA networks as described below, it is expected that the RSCAPs will assist member countries to achieve the target.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
CEP continues to support the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers (CaMPAM) Network and Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Training of Trainers Programme (ToT) on MPA Management held in Grenada (February 2015) • Support to MPA managers and practitioners to participate in the GCFI Conference (Nov 2015) • Technical assistance to Haiti for their MPA processes 	Ongoing
HELCOM		
Coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs) have since 1994 aimed at coherent protection of particularly vulnerable areas.	The area of HELCOM marine protected areas has increased threefold since 2004 and now covers about 12% of the marine area of the Baltic Sea. This exceeds the target of 10% spatial coverage set by the Convention on Biological Diversity.	
	Modernization of the HELCOM database on HELCOM MPAs. Receiving regular information and data is essential for following up the related HELCOM agreements and assessing the ecological coherence of the coastal and marine protected areas. The aim is to create an approachable database via restructuring the existing information and to harmonize the new HELCOM database as much as possible with similar ones on North-Atlantic (OSPAR) MPAs and EU's Natura 2000 sites.	
NOWPAP		
Cooperation with YSLME project (in its second phase) might result in that	Not clear at this moment	2016-2017

Cooperation with NEASPEC	Close relations with NEASPEC, NOWPAP expert serving as advisory group member of a project on MPAs	2014-now
PERSGA		
Support MPAs network: coordination meeting, capacity building and exchange lessons learned	-	Regular program
ROPME		
Development of a Protocol concerning the Conservation of Biological Diversity and the Establishment of Protected Areas	Meeting of the Plenipotentiaries for Signing of the Protocol is awaited	2014
SACEP		
SACEP already Established the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)	Network Established	Since July, 2007
Regional Ballast Water Management Taskforce for South Asian Region has also been established	Network Established	July, 2015

4. Support the provision of tools to decouple economic growth from environmental pressures in the marine and coastal environment by promoting resource efficiency and productivity, including assessing the value of the services provided by these key ecosystems

4.1 Raise awareness, promote and implement, as appropriate, economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services to support management decision making and policy settings

The RSCAPs have made significant efforts to raise awareness by organising workshops and conducting studies. Although it is difficult to measure the level of awareness, the workshops have surely contributed toward preparation of the ground for future application of green economy concept.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
GEF CREW – Conducted Regional Resource Valuation Capacity Building Workshop and three pilot case studies in Panama, Trinidad, and Tobago in collaboration with the World Resources Institute.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three pilot studies completed in Panama, Trinidad and Tobago • Regional Capacity Building Workshop Convened • Resource Valuation Methodology Developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 2015 • August 2015 • October 2015
HELCOM		
Support of the valuation of marine and	Regional workshop and report, 7-8	2013

coastal ecosystem services in the Baltic Sea	November 2013	
Promotion of research on cost-efficient water protection in the Baltic Sea	Study by University of Helsinki and MTT Agrifood Research Finland: Prospects for cost-efficient water protection in the Baltic Sea	2014
ROPME		
Workshop on Environmental Challenges in RSA for Journalist (In Arabic)		30 Sep-02 Oct 2013
Workshop on Promoting Environmental Awareness for Journalists (In Farsi)		17-19 Sep 2013
Workshop on Promoting Environmental Awareness for Journalists and Mass Media Specialists (In Farsi)		29-31 Dec 2014
National Workshop on Ecotourism and Ecosystem Services –Sultanate of Oman (in Arabic)		12-14 Oct 2015
Regional Workshop on Environmental Awareness for major target groups on new Directions of Environment for Sustainable Development in line with Rio+20 outcomes	Upcoming	Jan 2016
SACEP		
The First Order Draft of the Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy in South Asian Region is prepared. It has focused on awareness economic value of coastal ecosystem services to support management decision making and policy setting.	The regional document on MCBs will be finalized in the regional meeting which will be held at the beginning of 2016	On going

4.2 Foster key partnerships on specific green economy actions between governments, private sector and civil society

From the reporting it could be concluded that many RSCAPs are struggling to identify key partners for green economy actions. On the other hand, HELCOM has held dialogues with various stakeholders including the private sector. It is, thus, encouraged to identify and have a dialogue with regional key partners to seek opportunities of partnership on green economy.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
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CEP		
Continued to provide input to the development of UNEP Green Economy projects in Jamaica and Saint Lucia.	Final Reports prepared at Country Level. Next Steps uncertain.	N/A
Promote Green Economy Approaches and partnerships in the ongoing development of new GEF Projects such as CReW + and on Marine Litter	Ongoing	N/A
HELCOM		
Regional platform for promoting green technologies and alternative fuels for ships	Established as a permanent HELCOM sub-group	2014
Establish a dialogue and negotiate on solutions with business and industry to (i) develop design improvements that reduce the negative impacts of products entering the marine environment, and (ii) reduce over-packaging and promote wise packaging	Reduce input of marine litter.	continuous
Sustainable management of fisheries and maritime spatial planning	Fishing for space workshop BALTFIMPA project	14.11.2013 2012-13
SACEP		
Coastal Clean-up activity is related to Green Tourism (With involvement of Governments/ Private Sector / School Children and Youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created public awareness to clean the beach Pollution free marine and coastal environment Enhance tourisms 	Regular Activity

4.3 Develop regional policies on resource efficiency, in support to the 10-year framework programme for sustainable consumption and production (SCP), as appropriate

SCEP has been promoting sustainable consumption and production as stated below. However, no substantial achievements have been seen in the other regions. The reasons for this low level of implementation are not clear but the RSCAPs are encouraged to consider SCP particularly in the context of SDGs, which emphasize the importance of SCP.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
No action taken	N/A	N/A
PERSGA		
Regional guidelines for wastewater management		2015

Regional policies for wastewater treatment and reuse		2016-2017
Regional blue carbon policy analysis		2013
National blue carbon policy analysis in KSA		2014
SACEP		
Following on the implementation of the Asia–Pacific Roadmap of the Rio+20 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) as well as the recommendation of the 13 th Governing Council, SACEP is 'Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia' to develop a resource pool and to explore opportunity for capacity building to support governments and other stakeholders at national and regional level in a transition to SCP, and to support public awareness campaigns on SCP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory Meeting for the Establishment of the South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), 26-27 February 2015, Negombo, Sri Lanka. • SACEP in collaboration with UNEP will be organizing a Meeting on the South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production in India from 3 – 6 November 2015 	Ongoing process

5. Strengthen coordination and build necessary capacities at the regional and national levels to improve global knowledge and trends on the status of the marine environment, contributing to the World Oceans Assessment (Regular Process)

5.1 Planning and implementing, regional monitoring and assessment activities, as appropriate.(i.e. State of Marine Environment / Status reports or their equivalent)

Extensive activities were conducted in order to contribute to the Regular Process. As the first cycle is concluding, it may be a great time for the RSCAPs to examine future monitoring approaches.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
Development of State of Convention Area Report as per obligations of the LBS Protocol of the Cartagena Convention	Decision of Contracting Parties to develop State of Convention Area Report for the Wider Caribbean Region (SOCAR)	Completed in 2014
Intercessional Working Group of Government Experts, LBS RACs and Regional Experts Developed	Working group established and meeting monthly under Chairmanship of USA	Completed in 2014
SOCAR Outline presented to Contracting Parties for endorsement	State of Convention Area Report Outline Developed	Completed in 2014
Activities developed within GEF CLME+	Specific Plan of Action for SOCAR to be	Draft Report by

and IWEco to support SOCAR Development	developed by December 2015 with implementation to begin January 2016	November 2016.
COBSEA		
In 2009 published the first ever ' <i>State of Marine Environment Reporting (SOMER) of East Asian Seas</i> '. ³⁵		2009
Contributed inputs to the global biodiversity outlook produced by UNEP/DEPI/MCEB for the CBD COP-10 in Nagoya, Japan.		
HELCOM		
Regular joint monitoring of the Baltic Sea since 1970s	Outcomes of HELCOM working groups	continuous
HELCOM Monitoring Manual	One online site to stipulate what is monitored, where, when and how	2013
HELCOM core indicators	New generation – 19 indicators – launched	2015
NOWPAP		
Two State of Marine Environment Reports for the NOWPAOP region were prepared so far	SOMER-1	2007
	SOMER-2	2014
OSPAR		
Common environmental status indicators report	Interim report is to be produced by 2017. Next status report due in 2021.	2017-2021
PERSGA		
SOMERII		2016
Regional Monitoring Program		Regular
Review regional legislations for living marine resources		2014-2015
Assessment of marine litter in the region	assessment report	2013-2015
Assessment of LBS impacts on coral reefs POPs inventories		2015-2016 2012-2014
ROPME		
Regional Task Force Meeting on Mussel Watch Programme	Preparation of 2014 regional survey programme	2-3 Feb 2014
Implementation of the 2 nd Regional Mussel Watch Round	Survey of contaminants (PHC, TM, TBTs, Biotoxins, Radiation)	Feb-March 2014
Preparatory Meeting on the Four Season Oceanographic Cruise – 2016	Identification of objectives and a preliminary framework for the Cruise Plan	25-27 May 2015
Technical Expert Meeting for the Study of	Outlining the Study programme	23-24 Aug 2015

³⁵ <http://www.cobsea.org/documents/Report-SOMER/State/Marine/Report.pdf>

Water Circulation at the Strait of Hormuz		
First Scientific Committee Meeting on the Four Season Oceanographic Cruise-2016	Preparation of the Cruise Plan	15-17 Sept 2015
SACEP		
A partner in the consultation process of South Asia Environment Outlook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Asia partner for UNEP Global Synthesis Marine Biodiversity Series • Post 2015 Development Agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing and enhancing consultations and technical co-operation among States of the region; • Emphasizing the economic and social importance of the resources of the marine and coastal environment; and • Establishing a regional co-operative network of activities concerning concrete subjects/projects of mutual interest for the whole region 	On going

5.2 Technical assistance to member states on integrated assessment in the marine and coastal environment, including support to World Oceans Assessment, as appropriate

In most of the regions, no significant progress seem to have been made to provide technical assistance on integrate assessment. However, HELCOM member states are in the process of creating the next holistic assessment. The other regions are, thus, encouraged to learn from the experience at HELCOM to provide assistance to their member countries.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
No Action taken. Possible Assistance through GEF IWEco and CLME+ projects	N/A	N/A
HELCOM		
Regional work by all HELCOM member states to create the next holistic assessment	Second Holistic Assessment of the Ecosystem Health of the Baltic Sea (2018) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - incorporates thematic assessments on biodiversity, hazardous substances, eutrophication and maritime 	2018

	activities - socio-economic analysis included pressure indices improves	
NOWPAP		
NOWPAP has supported two WOA workshops where national experts were present		2012
ROPME		
		Upon request
SACEP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance to prepare National Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan for 5 maritime countries of SAS Region. SACEP is providing technical assistance to prepare Regional Taskforce on 'Ballast Water Management (BWM) in south Asian Seas Region. Finalized a Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asian Seas Region. Technical assistance to prepare a regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy in the South Asian Seas Region 	SAS member countries have their own oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan.	Ongoing process

5.3 Assist in building capacities at the national/regional level on integrated assessments on the marine and coastal environment, with particular emphasis to aligning as appropriate to regional priority issues as identified by the outline of the World Oceans Assessment

As mentioned above (5.2), most of the RSCAPs seem to be struggling to formulate integrated assessments.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
No Action taken. Possible Assistance through GEF IWeco and CLME+ projects	N/A	N/A
COBSEA		
Co-organized the Regional Scientific and Technical Capacity Building Workshop on the World Ocean Assessment (the U.N Regular Process) on the South China Sea		

on 17–19 September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. ³⁶		
NOWPAP		
NOWPAP has supported two WOA workshops where national experts were present		2012
ROPME		
		Continuous
SACEP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance to Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka to prepare National Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency • Assistance to prepare Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy in SAS Region • Assistance to Prepare BWM taskforce in SAS Region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity building of the member countries of the SAS region • Established a regional network to save the marine environment 	Ongoing process

5.4 Support the Group of Experts, including regional and national experts, as appropriate, of the World Ocean Assessment

As shown below, the RSCAPs have successfully provided support to the Group of Experts in order to organise regional workshops.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided assistance with the planning and organizing of United Nations Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment • Assisted in identification and nomination of national and regional experts • Facilitated a Decision of 13th IGM to support this process 	Regional Meeting successfully held in Miami in 2014; Additional experts from the Wider Caribbean and in particular Caribbean SIDS were nominated.	Completed in 2014
COBSEA		
Hosted the 11 th Global Meeting of the		

³⁶ <http://www.grida.no/publications/default/5784.aspx>

Regional Seas in Bangkok.		
Hosted the 37 th Session of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) on 14 – 19 February 2010 in Bangkok.		2010
NOWPAP		
NOWPAP has supported two WOA workshops where national experts were present		2012
SACEP		
The study report on Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia was prepared by a group of national consultants (Indian Nitrogen Group). The Nitrogen Group also engaged scientist from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka to prepare the study report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACEP also engaged national consultants for the preparation of National Oil Spill Contingency Plan for five maritime countries of SAS Region. 	SACEP has involved the national and regional experts to formulate regional and national consultants	June 2015 and continuous process

5.5 Promote the coordination of regional chapters of the World Oceans Assessment through the platform of the RSCAPs

The level of achievement on this item is not well reported.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
No action required - Completed in last reporting.	N/A	N/A
ROPME		
Expert Meeting on the Review of draft text of SOMER 2013	Finalization of SOMER ³⁷ draft for publication	27-28 Jan2014
Publication of SOMER 2013	Distribution of SOMER	2014
SACEP		
		2010

³⁷ State of the Marine Environment in ROPME sea area: <http://ropme-somer.org/>

The chapter of 'Marine Biodiversity Outlook Report in South Asian Seas Region'	This chapter is now in the UNEP Global Synthesis Marine Biodiversity Series	
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5.6 Strengthen mechanisms to sustain environmental data at regional and national level, capitalizing on strategic synthesis efforts (WOA)

As reported below many RSCAPs are in the process of improving managing of their monitoring data. Regional state of the environment report could be a good summary, synthesizing the collected data.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
Decision at 14 th IGM to support development of State of the Convention Area Report for the Wider Caribbean Region;	Details on SOCAR provided above	See above
Participated in regional workshop by UNEP ROLAC for development of project on Environmental Indicators in SIDS	Input provided to Draft Project Proposal developed by ROLAC; CAR/RCU may have role in implementation subject to project being approved by the GEF	Unknown
HELCOM		
Constant upgrading of HELCOM data & map services	Currently over 500 pan-Baltic map layers	continuous
	Biodiversity data portal	mid-2016
	Human pressures and MSP relevant data	2016 ->
	Online decision support tool and port survey database for ships' ballast water, with OSPAR	2017
NOWPAP		
One of the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers (DINRAC) is maintaining environmental data in its databases.	Data bases	2013-now
SACEP		
SACEP website is updated with recent publications, regional plan, MoU and regional plan. This information could be	Information is accessible form SACEP website ³⁸	Regular Process

³⁸ www.sacep.org

used to sustain environmental data at regional and national level.		
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6. Strengthen collaboration mechanisms with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UN Agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

6.1 Mapping existing and potential partnerships with relevant MEAs, UN Agencies and IFIs

All the regions are aware of the key partners as described below. However, whether the RSCAPs have conducted the mapping as specified by this action point is not clear.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
As part of ongoing GEF Projects, a detailed stakeholder mapping exercise is usually done. This has been done for example for GEF IWECO, GEF CLME+ and GEF CREW. As part of this mapping, the potential role and partnership of MEAs, UN Agencies and IFIs is specifically identified and explored during project implementation.	Specifically	Ongoing and Project Dependent
COBSEA		
Established and developed amicable and collaborative working relations with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP HQ and ROAP • UNDP • Sida • KOICA • PEMSEA • ASEAN Working Groups on Coastal and Marine Environment and Maritime Transport • UNESCO IOC WESTPAC • GEF • FAO • IUCN/MFF • SEAFDEC • NOWPAP • SACEP • YSLME • BOBLME • IMO 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD • GISP <p>local universities and with global conventions and U.N. organizations</p>		
In March 2010, UNEP/COBSEA and Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) signed a general 'umbrella' Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the cooperation between the two organizations.		
HELCOM		
UNEP Minamata Convention	Specific measures developed for implementation	2017
NOWPAP		
Cooperation with IOC UNESCO Sub-commission (WESTPAC)	Close relations with WESTPAC, including joint activities	2006-now
Cooperation with HELCOM, MAP and OSPAR	Close relations with MAP, HELCOM and OSPAR, including participation of their experts in NOWPAP activities	2010-now
OSPAR		
Review of the work on OSPAR Region 1(The Arctic)	The Commission identified the importance of collaboration with the Arctic Council	ongoing
OSPAR has developed partnership with ICES, NEAFC, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), the Sargasso Seas Alliance and the European International River Commissions such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine	Illustrative area of collaboration: on exchange of information to enable Ballast Water Convention exemptions, monitoring and assessment	ongoing
Initiative from Norway, FAO and UNEP on the project "Securing the Foundations for Fish Food Security in a Changing Oceans in West, Central and South Africa"	OSPAR joined the other regional partners such as Abidjan Convention on joint activities under the project	ongoing
PERSGA		
Database to be installed in PERSGA tracking system		2015
New agreements for cooperation with IMO, IOC-UNESCO, IAEA,		
Executing regional projects in collaboration with WB, IMO, UNIDO and UNEP	Activities supported regional capacities for adoption of EBM, combating maritime pollution, reduction of POPs emissions and reduction of pollution from LBS of pollution	2011-2014 2014-2017 2015-2016
ROPME		

Participation in Arab REIN First Regional Meeting for GEO-6	Contribution in outlining Ch-8 of the Report	10-14 May 2015
Participation in LAKI – The Priority-Setting Workshop for GCC Sub-Region	Contribution in identifying the gaps in knowledge	15-17 June 2015
SACEP		
Partnership with UNEP, UN-ESCAP, IMO, FAO, NORAD, BoBLME, Development Alternatives-India, Nitrogen Group of India and IUCN to implement the action plan of SASP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan in SAS Region • Regional Taskforce on BWM in SAS Region • Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity strategy for SAS Region • National Oil and chemical spill Contingency Plan of all SAS country. 	Continuous Process

6.2 Initiate and operationalize Inter and Intra Regional Collaborations

Collaborations among RSCAPs have been emerging. For example, HELCOM, OSPAR, Bucharest Convention and MAP continue collaborating on the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. The RSCAPs are encouraged to work closely particularly with neighbouring RSCAPs to join forces on marine conservation.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
Participated in Intergovernmental Meetings of Caribbean Community and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States;	Greater Coordination in the development and implementation of regional projects	Ongoing
COBSEA		
Co-organized with NOWPAP, UNDP, PEMSEA and YSLME a workshop on regional governance during the PEMSEA EAS Congress in Manila in November 2009.	-	2009
Co-organized with GEF, UNEP and Sida the first GEF International Waters Science Conference (IWSC 2012) in Bangkok in September 2012	-	2012
Participated and presented at the PEMSEA EAS Congress in Changwon, Korea in July 2012	-	2012
Participated in the Global Land Oceans	-	2012

Connections Conference (GLOC) and the Third Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA (IGR 3); UNEP's Global Programme of Action on the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land Based Activities in Manila on 23-27 January 2012.		
HELCOM		
With OSPAR, Barcelona Convention & Bucharest Convention: Regional action plan on marine litter	Cooperation continues on common actions with other Regional Seas Conventions. Informal meeting on cooperation between RSC regarding Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter (18.09.2015 in Paris). Next meeting envisaged in spring 2016.	2015->
With OSPAR: Continuous regional work on IMO Ballast Water Management Convention	Joint Action Plan under development	2019
	Online decision support tool and port survey database for ships' ballast water	2017
With OSPAR, RSCs: Intra-regional indicators; Ongoing work with RSCs on Indicators	Further development of other core indicators and Good environmental status;	2016
	Sharing best practices to other RSCs	2014 ->
With OSPAR: Joint work on mitigating the harmful impact from underwater noise	Develop a roadmap towards a regional action plan on underwater noise Joint Meeting of OSPAR's Intersessional Correspondence Group on Underwater Noise (ICG-Noise), HELCOM Expert Network on Underwater Noise (HELCOM EN-Noise) and EU Technical Group on Underwater Noise (EU TG-NOISE) (ICG Noise-HELCOM EN Noise-EU TG NOISE 1-2015) to take place 30 September 2015, in Copenhagen, Denmark.	2016
With IMO: Full implementation of Baltic Sea special area status for sewage from passenger ships	Work on improving adequacy on port reception facilities for sewage	2019
Black Sea Commission: Sharing knowledge, with particular view on monitoring and assessing eutrophication	Outcomes of Baltic 2 Black project. Transfer of knowledge between the regions on assessment of eutrophication and monitoring of nutrient loads	2011-13
OSPAR		
Collaboration with the HELCOM Convention, Barcelona Convention, Abidjan Convention	Information and experiences have been shared with neighbouring regions	

PERSGA		
Collaboration with ISESCO	Joint training workshops	2013-2014
Collaboration with AL	Participation in ARAB SD Initiative activities	Regular
Collaborations with neighbouring RSs: ROPME and MAP	Joint workshops/ publish regional manuals	
collaboration with FAO-NENA regional office	MoU to strengthen regional mechanism for fishery cooperation	2016
Collaboration with UNEP-ROWA	Joint training workshops	2013-2014
ROPME		
ROPME- KISR MOU	Supporting research programme	
ROPME – JICA MOU	ROPME-JICA Partnership Programme	
ROPME- Qatar University MOU	Coordination for 4-season Oceanographic Cruise	10 May 2015
ROPME-UNEP/ROWA MOU	Collaboration in implementation of the reoriented ROPME Programme Activities	02 Jul 2015
SACEP		
SASP is working within the Member States and international, Regional, Multilateral, Bilateral and Private Sector organizations	Implementation of the Action Plan of SASP	Continuous Process

6.3 Support and streamline reporting with relevant MEAs, UN Agencies and IFIs

Harmonized reporting to the MEAs and relevant protocols has long been an issue in the environmental community. Continuous efforts need to be made on the side of UNEP as well as of the RSCAPs to move towards more streamlined reporting system to reduce burden on the member countries.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
GEF CReW Project has facilitated greater interaction with the Interamerican Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank.	Joint capacity building activities carried out with IDB, World Bank and CDB; Interest of IFIs in becoming partners for new GEF Projects including a follow up to CReW and on Marine Litter/Plastics.	Ongoing
PERSGA		
Contribution to SG reports on UNCLOS and Oceans		regular
Contribution to GEO6 report		
Observer to CBD COP		2014

Observer to UNFCCC-CMP COPs		2012, 2013
Observer in IMO COPs		regular
ROPME		
ROPME- KISR MOU	Supporting research programme	
ROPME – JICA MOU	ROPME-JICA Partnership Programme	
ROPME- Qatar University MOU	Coordination for 4-season Oceanographic Cruise	10 May 2015
ROPME-UNEP/ROWA MOU	Collaboration in implementation of the reoriented ROPME Programme Activities	02 Jul 2015
SACEP		
Collaborate with UN Agencies and related Conventions	Implementation of the Action Plan of SASP	Continuous Process

6.4 RSCAPs engagement in the Coral Reef Partnership and Blue Carbon Partnership, carrying out regional policy assessments, as appropriate

The regions that encompass coral reef ecosystem have been engaged in the Coral Reef Partnership. On the other hand, only PERSGA has reported on Blue Carbon Partnership and the extent to which the RSCAPs are engaged is not clear.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
CEP has facilitated the recent reactivation of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and will lead and provide guidance for the Steering Committee along with its regional coordination through the SPAW-RAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First online meeting held in February (2015) to facilitate developing a workplan along with several activities to be fulfilled within the year • Finalization of the Terms of Reference for the Wider Caribbean GCRMN Steering committee, regional coordinator and members as well as the new structure (geographic scope) <p>Coming out of recent meetings, recommended methods (based on on-going monitoring) put forward by the Caribbean GCRMN, are currently being taken into account by experts</p>	Ongoing

	monitoring coral reefs in the region.	
COBSEA		
Supported the implementation of the Green Fins Initiative in the region.		ongoing
OSPAR		
OSPAR 2015 adopted some priorities including Blue Carbon to further develop work on the issue	Further development on Blue Carbon is expected	2015
PERSGA		
Participation in ICRI activities		2014
Regional assessment of blue carbon and policy analysis in collaboration with UNEP		2013
Support blue carbon assessment and management planning in KSA		2014
SACEP		
SACEP already established the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)	Taskforce is not active due to financial constrains	

3. Challenges faced by the RSCAPs

Limited financial and human resources have been the main limiting factors for various Regional Seas Secretariats. Due to the limitations, some regions faced serious difficulties in implementing activities. Furthermore, since the Strategic Directions differ from regional strategies adopted by the participating countries, implementation could be limited especially in the areas where discrepancies exist between the RSSD and the regional strategies.

Several Regional Seas pointed out limited coordination among MEAs and UN organisations at regional level. UNEP Regional Offices might have a clear understanding of the activities implemented by Regional Seas. These are the areas where UNEP can enhance its coordination to facilitate activities implemented by the RSCAPs.

Below, specific challenges faced by the Secretariats are listed.

1. CEP

- Limited human resources at the Secretariat and insufficient funding in particular for projects and activities

- Lack of awareness of the work of Regional Seas by other branches of UNEP including the Regional Offices
- Challenges in getting partners to play their role and implement in accordance with their respective mandates to enable more synergies and reduction in overlap and duplication.
- Based on demands of Contracting Parties - trying to address too many small scale or country-specific issues is very difficult with limited human resources at the Secretariat. This is where enhanced UNEP Coordination in the region would enhance both regional and national impact.

2. COBSEA

COBSEA's financial and human resources limitations have hindered the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Direction for the period.

3. NOWPAP

NOWPAP member states have agreed upon on the Medium-term strategy which is not exactly the same as RSSD.

4. OSPAR

- Lack of data hinders application of ecosystem approaches.
- Lack of knowledge on the likely interactions between elements of the ecosystem
- Complexities and uncertainties prohibit rational decision making
- Contracting Parties are prioritising more generic EU wide economic and social analysis to avoid replication of work at the regional level

5. PERSGA

Limitation of financial resources and regional capacities; accelerated development in the coastal zone; slow momentum in some approached potential partners for collaboration; inadequate coordination and synergies of MEAs interventions in the region (overlapping)

6. ROPME

- Lack of a coordination mechanism between ROPME and other concerned international institutions/UN organizations in the Region on common areas of activity
- Limitation of technical support from UNEP
- Slow response of National Focal Points in Member States
- Difference in prioritization of marine and coastal issues among Member States
- Absence of GEF and WB involvement in ROPME Programme Activities

7. SACEP

- Attracting donors for implement the South Asian Seas Action Plan
- Clearance of SASP Country Contributions by the member states

4. Lessons learnt

Valuable lessons were shared by the Regional Seas Secretariats to inspire the future actions. Some of the issues identified as challenges in the above section might be addressed through the actions suggested by other secretariats. For example, CEP highlighted the importance of establishing close communication with national focal points through frequent communication, newsletters and reporting of the implementation of the decisions. By improving communication, slow responses of national focal points could be improved. Since the RSCAPs could learn from experiences in other regions, it is important to periodically share knowledge and experiences among the RSCAPs. Increased efforts are needed to create such knowledge sharing platform.

1. CEP

- Importance of establishing mechanisms for direct communication and exchanges with national and technical focal points and finding out about any concerns they might have about the work of the Secretariat including projects and activities. This included use of more frequent communication, newsletters etc.
- Implementing as many of the decisions taken by the parties during the Conference of Parties and Intergovernmental Meeting assists greatly in developing credibility among the Contracting Parties as well as Partners including donors.
- Reporting to the Parties on the implementation of the decisions and how they were accomplished or why they were not. This process gave the Parties a lot of confidence, thus supporting the Secretariat politically and financially.
- Importance of developing and sourcing funding for new projects that address priority environmental issues on the ground in each country.
- Increased use of social media in highlighting and promoting ideas and actions as well as participating in national and regional activities to spur interest and support towards national/ regional efforts
- Improved website and awareness of website
- Showing people how they can help in promoting environmental protection and dismiss ideas that this is solely the responsibility of designated bodies. It also helped that we identify sustainable practices at home, in businesses and communities especially where projects have been implemented and have ended.
- The development of partnerships with NGOs and the private sector has also contributed greatly to the success of large project funded by the GEF.

2. NOWPAP

NOWPAP member states have agreed upon on the Medium-term strategy which is not exactly the same as RSSD.

3. PERSGA

More inter-regional collaboration and synergy are required among regional organizations and MEAs interventions; addressing livelihoods options in EBM framework; more involvement of local communities in restoration projects; MPAs

4. OSPAR

- The commission acknowledge that more understanding of the impacts and effects of climate change in the marine environment is needed, including cumulative effects of climate change and other pressures.
- It has been clear that the Collective Arrangement (between OSPAR and NEAFC) cannot be a mechanism for joint management o areas of se. However, it is a mechanism for collaboration and coordination between such organisations.
- In practice, OSPAR's Marine Protected Areas, have coincided in many instances with fisheries restrictions applied by NEAFC in very similar geographic areas, protecting the same features
- It has been found that practical exchanges are increasing mutual understanding between OSPAR and NEAFC in terms of objectives and working methods. New opportunities for cooperation might emerge from the exchange of information.

5. ROPME

Need of intensive National/Regional brainstorming/ awareness programmes for all levels of stockholders prior to programming the implementation of the Strategic Directions

6. SACEP

- SACEP has organized many regional meeting/workshop to prepare regional strategy or action plan for the South Asian Region;
- Finalized post 2015 South Asia Development Agenda which is an excellent report reflects the key challenges and the critical analysis on means of the Rio+20 outcomes in South Asia;
- Organized national worship in 5 SAS maritime countries to formulate their national oil spill contingency plan;
- SACEP has promoted the coordination of regional chapter on 'Marine Biodiversity outlook for South Asian Seas Region' of the World Ocean Assessment which has emphasized the economic and social importance of the resources of the marine and coastal environment of South Asian Region.

5. Other experiences to be shared

Below several Regional Seas Secretariats shared the experiences, ideas and proposals for the future. One of the themes that emerge was the collection of successful case studies to attract potential donors. Although the Regional Seas Programme has a long history celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2014, no substantial compilation of success stories has been conducted. Further emphasis on the significance of the RSCAPs is clearly needed to convince the participating countries and to attract future donors.

Partnership with tourism sector also came up from the recommendations by the RSCAPs. Although it might not be applicable to all the regions, there are opportunities to find a common ground with the tourism sector. All the regions are, however, encouraged to move towards integrated ocean governance engaging with different sectors and there are opportunities for working with other sectors outside of the environmental sector.

1. CEP

- A. In response to IGM 16, CEP has been monitoring and has established a forum for technical exchange on the social, economic and environmental impacts of Sargassum in the Wider Caribbean Region. This topic is a high priority for UNEP CEP and the following decision was made by Contracting Parties during the last Conference of the Parties of the SPAW Protocol (COP 8) in Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014:

" support more research on origins, impacts and ways to control the brown algae, as well as to improve the development of models in response to the increasing incidence of such events which affect the marine environment, biodiversity and health in the region."

Following this decision, the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) began working on this issue in early 2015 by identifying regional initiatives on the subject in order to enhance regional cooperation and encourage collaboration and group discussions. Working in close contact with a growing number of organizations and experts, the SPAW-RAC is working to formalize a network of delegates/experts from countries affected by the Sargassum issue in order to share experiences, good practices and promote collaboration. In 2015, the SPAW-RAC launched an on-line discussion forum dedicated to the Sargassum issue for the Wider Caribbean Region. This forum aims to gather information on the issue as well as share links to other relevant partners/websites.

- B. There is a critical role for the Regional Seas in the development of the oceans governance agenda. Regional Seas Programme should continue to fulfil the mandates established by the Governments in their different Conventions, Protocols and Action Plans and which are further

reflected in biennial workplans and budgets. Regional Seas Programmes should be and continue to be the platform to address relevant national and global problems and issues at the regional level. Several opportunities now exist for UNEP through the Regional Seas Programme to contribute data and information to assist in more informed policy development and decision-making. These include but not limited to:

- Sustainable Development Goal on Oceans
- World Ocean Assessment
- UNEP Live
- Relevant regional resolutions on the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of the sustainable development
- Scientific Advisory Groups and Technical Groups etc. There are useful as there are still many environmental data gaps that need to be filled. Relevant and current data and information would assist in regional and national decision making.
- Large Multi-country Projects funded by the GEF and others

C. The support to projects and activities by Governments of the Wider Caribbean is because as Secretariat, we have tried to be:

- Relevant, responsive and flexible in our responses to the needs and priorities of the Wider Caribbean region with regards to the protection, management, sustainable use and development of their coastal and marine resources.
- Help member states to meet their National priorities/needs through projects and activities that result in actions and impacts on the ground
- Be flexible – we are being asked to function as other bodies function at the international level which we are unable to do given our need to provide support to the countries of the region.

D. Additional Support Required

- UNEP needs to have a strong voice/ image/ presence and enabling structure to promote the individual RSPs
- Enriched and dedicated human resource capacities for Regional Seas in UNEP HQ
- Need to revive donor resources and support through JPOs (e.g. SIDA, Norway)
- Advertise quantifiable success stories to attract more donors at the regional level
- Increased inter-regional seas interaction at the functional level and not only at the directorial level
- Needs to be consideration of the outputs of the SIDS conference (SAMOA Pathway) and the SDGs in RS's future agenda
- Need for continued active engagement of the private sector particularly, the cruise ship industry, oil sector, fisheries sector, and the hotel sector and linked to specific programmes, projects and activities
- Partnerships with the Tourism sector should be enhanced, UNEP (RSPs need to be better mainstreamed with UNEP offices and Programme Areas)

E. A formal agreement between Brazil and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat (UNEP CEP) will be developed to help promote collaboration and improved governance as part of the GEF CLME+ Project.

2. COBSEA

Resolution 1 of 22nd COBSEA IGM reaffirmed participating countries commitment to increase their contributions to the COBSEA Trust Fund. All except one country has confirmed their increased contributions. At the said IGM, participating countries also decided the hosting of the COBSEA Secretariat by Thailand.

3. PERSGA

EBM and livelihoods options in MMAs; promote environmental monitoring to support EBM; building resilience to support EbA solutions in dry coasts; ecotourism demo projects

4. ROPME

Establishment of a mechanism for inter-regional cooperation to transfer cases of success stories and experiences gained during the implementation of the Strategic Directions.

5. SACEP

Blue Flag Beach Certification is an exclusive eco-label which is presently awarded to more than 3200 beaches and marinas in 38 countries worldwide. This is highly relevant as the five maritime countries of South Asia are endeavored with coastal and marine resources which have enormous potential to develop sustainable tourism industry. SACEP in collaboration with the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) Denmark, and with the financial support of UNEP took the message of 'A Clean beach – A Tourist Haven' for promoting sustainable tourism in the SAS region. In this process SACEP organized national workshops in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in February-March 2010 to propagate the idea of beach certification. These national workshops provided a platform to further development of national programmes. Individual countries have agreed to pursue a follow up on Beach certification programme.

A Regional Project Proposal was prepared and forwarded to UNEP for favorable funding support which is still pending. This activity can be promoted under the UNEP-GPA activities as the subject area is highlighted as priority.

6. Immerging issues to be considered by the next RSSD

The secretaries pointed out problems with the RSSD (2013-2016) to be improved for the next RSSD. The ROPME Secretariat concisely summarized such problems³⁹. In the context of the SDGs, the RSCAPs as well as UNEP need to formulate strategies to help member states achieve the targets. On the other hand, it is necessary to pay attention to emerging pollutants. Extraction of offshore resources could also be increasingly important in many regions across the world. The RSACPs are, thus, invited to consider the issues pointed out below as well as the discussion paper⁴⁰ to formulate the next RSSD 2017-2020.

1. CEP

- Oceans Governance and what the Blue Economy means especially for SIDS and Coastal Countries; The Governance focus in the current strategic directions relate more to living marine resources and MPAs – this should be broadened to more development focussed and link issues of land and marine-based pollution and the management of living and non-living coastal and marine resources
- Increased demand and interest for extraction of off shore resources
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation, especially for Small Island Developing States which are the majority Parties in our Convention
- Water, Food, Energy and Climate Change Nexus could be useful linkage to facilitate political support new projects in the Wider Caribbean Region
- More Integrated approaches to Disaster Risk Management including Marine Disasters e.g. Off Shore Platforms
- Increased pollution from emerging pollutants including Microplastics, Hormones, Endocrine Disruptors

2. NOWPAP

Align with the SDGs, when adopted this September

3. PERSGA

Micro plastics; coastal marine adaptation knowledge; building resilience of coastal ecosystem; wastewater reuse, expansion of aquaculture, impacts of acidification on major fisheries; cost of environmental degradation and restoration; 2020 SDGs targets and regional seas

4. ROPME

- Lack of a system for assessment of the Implementation of Strategic Directions , Regional Sea-wise
- Need for identification of priorities in the Strategic Directions
- Lack of a mechanism for the follow up of implementation by UNEP

³⁹ For the discussion on the problems of the RSSDs please see the Discussion Paper on the RSSD 2017-2020 (UNEP/WBRS17/2/)

⁴⁰

- Lack of a system for the exchange of information and experience among Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

5. SACAP

Development of a regional programme for monitoring of marine pollution in the coastal waters of the south Asian sea and the regular exchange of relevant data and information.

Chapter 3: Conclusion

It is clear that the Strategies that are closely linked with the programme of work of UNEP and of the RSCAPs have been implemented more than the other activities that may fall into outside of the planned activities. Both UNEP and the RSCAPs faced difficulties in identifying potential financial mechanisms. Stakeholder mapping might be difficult to conduct but as CEP has experienced, the RSCAPs may take advantage of projects to identify important players in the region including the private sector.

As stated, due to the absence of clear targets and indicators, assessment cannot be made to determine the level of achievements both by UNEP and by the RSCAPs. This limitation unfortunately undermined the value of the RSSD. Although a detailed discussion on the problems of the RSSDs have been provided in a separate paper⁴¹, it is encouraged to review the above report on the implementation of the current RSSD to identify current status and gaps existed.

⁴¹ UNEP/WBRS.17/2 Discussion paper on the RSSD 2017-2020